

Attachment 3
Deschutes County Justice Reinvestment Grant
Semi-Annual Report Q7 and Q8
2021-2023 JRI Grant

1. Is program implementation progressing as expected? (Identify implementation challenges. Note if there have been any changes from what was proposed in your original application that significantly impacts program functioning.)

- a. Our Deschutes County Justice Reinvestment Program (JRP) is operating as designed and as outlined in our application. In April/May of 2023 we completed our Bend office remodel which allowed for the return to some in person services for our CBT groups. We have retained some virtual options as we found that it can reduce barriers for some clients. We are finishing up the process for a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections to conduct the Gender-Responsive Policy and Practice Assessment (GRPPA) and anticipate the relaunching of gender-specific CBT services as well as other organizational changes.
- b. Our JRP clients which include downward departures and AIP/STTL continue to be supervised in accordance with the risk-needs principle, based on their LSCMI/WRNA. We continue to partner with community providers to offer transitional and sober housing options whenever possible. Central Oregon still remains a difficult housing environment and thus having these resources helps create some stability and barrier reduction for our client. Clients also receive other resources to address barriers and are regularly taking part in our in house MRT program.

2. Highlight program successes or promising practices (Include any lessons-learned, accomplishments, or individual program outcome measures.)

- a. We are finishing up the process for our technical assistance grant for the GRPPA and have started the process to better understand what changes we can make to be more gender responsive. We appreciate having this information and are working with the gender responsive team on a department action plan.
- b. In house MRT remains one of our most significant and sustained promising practices. We just relaunched some in person services and continue to offer virtual services. We continue to have clients successfully completing.
- c. In the first half of 2023 we completed 13 defendant assessment reports.

- d. We are working closely with the District Attorney's office and an outside consultant on getting the equity plan process started. This was funded by capacity grant funding.
- 3. Reduce recidivism through evidence-based practices while increasing public safety and holding offenders accountable. Describe the program's progress toward reducing recidivism through evidence-based practices while increasing public safety and holding offenders accountable during the reporting period. Please respond utilizing the most up to date data available on the CJC dashboards, in addition to local quantitative and qualitative data.**

The CJC recidivism dashboards are updated every 6 months.

The CJC Uniform Crime Report dashboard is updated yearly.

- a. Our program has been in full operation since September of 2016. We have data available for 3 year recidivism rates from the 2017, 2018, and 2019 cohorts. The latest rates are from the first cohort of 2019. The new arrest rate is 53%, new conviction rate is 44.4% and the new incarceration rate is 15.3%. Each of these is an improvement by a couple percent when compared to the previous cohort. Overall, we are seeing some slight decline and are happy to not see any major increases.
 - b. The state wide average for this the first cohort of 2019 is a new arrest rate of 44.7%, new conviction rate of 33.9% and new incarceration rate of 10.7%. Overall, we are higher than the state average for all measures of recidivism, but Deschutes County has always trended higher when compared historically to the state. Overall, we will continue to monitor these numbers.
 - c. So far in 2023 we successfully completed 25 clients in our MRT program and we have 22 clients currently active in MRT. This program specifically address criminal thinking that likely should correlate with decreased recidivism rates.
- 4. Reduce prison utilization for property, drug and driving offenses while increasing public safety and holding offenders accountable.**

Describe the program's progress toward reducing county prison usage for property, drug and driving offenses while increasing public safety and holding offenders accountable during the reporting period. Please respond using the most up to date data on the CJC dashboards to analyze trends in usage. Responses should incorporate data specific to prison intakes, revocations, length of stay, and relationship to the statewide rates as appropriate.

The CJC prison usage dashboards are updated monthly.

The CJC Uniform Crime Report dashboard is updated yearly

- a. Overall, Deschutes County's prison usage has continued to remain below our baseline during the past six months. When looking at males and females as an aggregate the most recent numbers released for June 2023 put us at 1274 months which is 26% below our baseline figure of 1727 months.
 - b. As of June 2023 male prison usage for the JRI population is at 1095 months which is 26% below our baseline figure of 1484 months.
 - c. As of May 2023 female prison usage for the JRI population is 179.3 months which is 26% below our baseline of 242.4 months.
 - d. Recent Oregon Criminal Justice Commission prison intake data (June through December 2021) indicates 12 probation revocations for drug, property, and driving offenses. Of this group four were female and eight were male. Of the 12 revocations three were JRP clients. These clients were given multiple chances but ended up not engaging in JRP program as required or committed new crimes.
 - e. In the same time period, we recorded 31 first sentence admissions for JRI crime categories. Of the 31 three were female and 28 were male. We have provided the list of first sentence clients to the deputy DA assigned to the JRI cases and will be looking at these cases to see if things can be adjusted to improve our current process.
 - f. Overall, we remain below our prison baseline and are still showing prison bed savings as compared to previous years. JRI clients continue to receive supervision, housing resources as needed, treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and access to resources that help break down barriers that may prevent them from meeting their supervision obligations. Our pretrial JRI program is running and the work group is making adjustments as necessary.
- 5. Describe the program's progress toward utilizing culturally responsive services within program operations during the reporting period.**

Identify steps taken as well as any challenges or successes your program has had. Note if there have been any changes from what was discussed in your original application

- a. Deschutes County Parole and Probation has teamed up with a community group to hold community conversation meetings. This group continue to meet

monthly. We are continuing with our pilot program known as “The Bridge Program”. The Bridge Program is offered by the Father’s Group. The Father’s Group is Black-led, but it embraces collaboration and cross-cultural influences, operating not just a group, but also has dedicated individuals who are doing great work in the community in education, business and social services. We are looking for additional male clients who identify as a person of color or who would otherwise benefit from support provided by members of the Father’s Group. We are also looking at a similar partnership that specializes in culturally responsive support services through First Light. The goal of both programs is to create or strengthen culturally affirming community ties, meet their personal goals and the requirements of Parole and Probation supervision.

- b. We have recently begun working on a public safety Equity Plan, with a primary partnership for the project with the District Attorney’s office. We have selected an external consultant and work will conclude by end December 2023.

6. Does the LPSCC have any questions regarding your county's data dashboard? Is there any specialized analysis CJC can provide specifically related to your county's recidivism and prison usage data?

- a. Not at this time.

7. Is program implementation progressing as expected? Identify implementation challenges or changes from your original application that significantly impact program functioning. This should include: Changes in the identified program target population, Implementation delays, Changes to services, sanction, or supervision capacity

- a. In 2022 the pretrial services program was expanded to include: all property/drug felonies (regardless of prison eligibility and/or custody status) and in-custody DUIs. Prior to this expansion we had a very limited participant population. Post expansion we have been able to greatly increase the number of people in the program.
- b. When pretrial was first implemented the VPRAI was adjusted for the target population, prison eligible property and drug crimes. The pretrial services team has been discussing the use of the adjusted VPRAI post expansion. With the changes to the participant population the team has discussed if the adjustments made to the VPRAI are still appropriate and necessary. This continues to be a topic the team is discussing. Any changes to VPRAI would impact the validation process for the risk assessment tool.
- c. The Deschutes County’s PJO as required by Senate Bill 48, incorporated pretrial service conditions in to the language of the PJO. The court has been very

supportive of the program and does rely on the pretrial services deputy to assist with certain release conditions. Some examples include, assisting participants with the installation of alcohol monitors, confirming if treatment beds are available and connecting participants with resources.

- d. With the increase in participant population, assistance to the court, and an increase in participants engaging in voluntary services, this has necessitated the need for additional deputies. The Sheriff's office has contracted with a retired deputy to provide some additional support for this program. The current caseload is 98 with an average over the past few months of 100. At this time 81% of clients are out of custody and in compliance. Over the lifetime of this program 101 prison eligible cases have come through the program and 77% of those resulted in something other than prison upon resolution.
- e. We anticipate with new funding through Oregon Justice Department for pretrial services that we will see some changes within our County. We will provide updates once those have been finalized.

In the application process, grantees were asked to estimate the total number of fewer prison intakes, including revocations, for the program's target population anticipated during the 2019-21 biennium given full program implementation. The purpose of this section is to track progress toward meeting your estimated intake reduction.

Responses in this section should cover the previous 6 month period and reflect only the program's target population.

- 8. In the application process, grantees were asked to estimate the total number of fewer prison intakes, including revocations, for the program's target population anticipated during the 2019-21 biennium given full program implementation. The purpose of this section is to track progress toward meeting your estimated intake reduction. Responses in this section should cover the previous 6 month period and reflect only the program's target population.**
- 9. How many program participants were granted downward departures that otherwise would have gone to prison during the past 6 months?**

- a. 22 new Ddep onto one of our JRI caseloads.
- b. 103 Ddep in total in the past 6 months for non JRI caseloads.

10. How many program participants were revoked during the past 6 months?

- a. Three program participants. Nine non JRP clients, but they had JRI qualifying crime. Four clients who did not have JRI related crimes.

11. Of the above revocations, how many were for a new crime and how many for other violations? Please choose only one reason for revocation per applicable program participant.

- a. Two for PV related violations.
- b. 1 for New Crime

12. Comments or additional narrative information

- a. During this reporting period we had 30 downward departure clients complete supervision successfully.
- b. The numbers below are for our downward departure program. This does not include all of the housing and other resources we provide for our AIP/STTL population. We have also made adjustments to include those who were on abscond on JRP at any time during the reporting period, which increases total count and reduces percentages in services. We had 64 distinct abscond events for this population during the reporting period.

13. During the past 6 months, what percentage of program participants were engaged in some form of treatment (substance use disorder, cognitive, mental health, and/or pre-treatment)?

- a. 55%
 - i. 86/157

14. During the past 6 months, what percentage of program participants received assistance with housing? Examples include transitional housing, vouchers, rental assistance, etc.

- a. 40%
 - i. 63/157
 - ii. Does not include STTL and AIP on various caseload.

15. During the past 6 months, what percentage of NEW program participants were assessed by a validated risk assessment tool?

- a. 100%

16. During the past 6 months, what percentage of program participants received education or employment assistance?

- a. 10%
 - i. 15/157



JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT VICTIMS 10% ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTY: DESCHUTES

VICTIMS SERVICES PROVIDER: J BAR J ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT: JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

PROGRAM/PERFORMANCE SITE:

ADDRESS: 62859 HAMBY RD

CITY: BEND

ZIP: 97701

PROGRAM CONTACT: BREANNE BARRETT

CONTACT EMAIL: BBARRETT@JBARJ.ORG

No of LPSCC MEETINGS ATTENDED: 3

REPORT PREPARED BY: BREANNE BARRETT

Within your answers to the specific questions outlined below, please be sure to include the following information where applicable:

- **Major Activities and Accomplishments:** Include progress to date since the beginning of the grant, along with any indicators of progress during the reporting period, for example:
 - Number of Victims served, including marginalized and underserved populations
 - Specific service achievements, including barriers addressed and increasing capacity
 - Any other benchmarks important to Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services
- **Collaboration:** Information about Project Partners and increased collaboration
- **Training:** Describe any training for professionals to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role.
- **Problems:** Describe any deviations from the original grant application over the reporting period. This might include issues with successfully implementing programs or activities.
- **Significant Events:** Highlight particular points or experiences that might be helpful in identifying successes.
- **Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period:** Briefly describe the plan for Justice Reinvestment Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services going forward, including how to address any problems identified in the narrative.

Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services 10% Description

How is program implementation progressing? Highlight relevant challenges or successes. Include program quantitative or qualitative data as available.

- (1) The at:project's Housing Partnership Program is designed to reduce barriers for victims of human trafficking to access safe and affordable long-term housing. Housing in Central Oregon is difficult to access with lack of rental inventory and high cost of living. For victims of human trafficking, navigating the rental process can pose additional barriers to obtaining long-term stable housing. The implementation of the Housing partnership Program, has allowed the at:project to help reduce barriers for victims of human trafficking to obtain long-term stable housing by providing housing navigation services, paying for housing application fees, deposit assistance

and housing retention assistance. In the last year, the at:project housed 8 survivor of trafficking and an additionally 8 family members through the Housing Partnership Program. The EHV program through Housing Works does not cover application fees or rental deposits. The at:project has provided financial assistance to cover 2 application fees and provided deposit assistance for 8 clients. The at:project also provided one month of rental assistance to 9 clients for housing retention assistance while their vouchers went into effect.

Describe any changes in the use of grant funding that are significantly different from what was proposed in your original application.

(2) Grant funding is being used as proposed in the original application.

Describe how grant funds have been used to provide services specifically targeting marginalized and underserved populations.

(2) All clients who received assistance in the for of housing application fees, deposit assistance or housing retention support are victims of human trafficking. A total of 11 clients received housing navigation support of financial housing assistance. All 11 of these clients belong to a marginalized population due to their experience with human trafficking; many of whom are also part of other marginalized communities due to their race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and/or involvement in the criminal justice system.

The at:project employs and contracts with Survivor Leaders (past victims of trafficking) to review program materials and delivery of services. Survivor Advocates and passed lived experience experts have a unique and valuable experience and perspective to working and connecting with victims of trafficking.

Current demographics of those who received housing navigation support and/or housing assistance funds:

Race/Ethnicity	# of Clients
Black	2
Hispanic	4
White	5
Service by Type of Trafficking	# of Clients
Sex Trafficking	6
Labor Trafficking	3
Sex and Labor Trafficking	2

Describe how grant funds have addressed access barriers including, but not limited to, language, literacy, disability, transportation and cultural practices.

(4) The Housing Navigator works with clients to address barriers to obtaining housing by guiding the client through the rental process by providing support in areas such as navigating the Emergency Housing Voucher program paperwork and intake process; providing transportation to appointments related to housing; searching for housing in

areas the client identifies as safe and supports their cultural practices; working with landlords to house clients who may have additional barriers to be approved for housing (criminal records, poor credit, or lack of rental history).

The housing navigator is bilingual in Spanish and English. Materials are made available in the client's native language.

The at:project utilized Survivor Leaders (past victims of trafficking), to review and consult program materials and delivery. The program values their lived experience and insight.

Describe how grant funds have increased capacity in areas where services are difficult to access, limited, or non-existent.

(5) Grant funds have been used to secure long-term housing in Central Oregon for survivors of human trafficking. The rising cost of living in Central Oregon and limited or non-existent access to rental assistance funds, makes obtaining housing in the region near impossible for survivors of trafficking. The funding provided in this grant has made it possible for survivors to obtain long-term housing. Without access to this grant's funds, survivors of trafficking would need to look outside the area to find and secure long-term housing. For many survivors this would mean losing or disrupting their support network which can lead to further trauma and instability.

Describe how grant funds have been used to support trauma-informed interventions and services.

(6) The Housing Partnership Program was developed using the Housing First model which is considered best practice for providing trauma informed interventions and services. The Housing First model prioritizes providing permanent housing to those who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Housing First is based on the principle that clients do not need to meet goals such as attending substance use or mental health treatment, budgeting, or obtaining a job prior to having a safe place to live. The approach is guided by the belief that people need their basic needs such as food and shelter prior to addressing other aspects of their lives. The Housing First model is a client centered, trauma informed approach that emphasizes client choice in terms of housing and supports. Clients can choose the type of housing they apply for and the area in which they apply for housing and choose what services, if any, they receive from the at:project once they are in in housing.

Describe how COVID 19 has impacted your services in relations to the services outline in your JRI grant application.

(7) The at:project is providing all services in person while taking precautions to keep staff and clients safe and healthy. COVID 19 has not affected services provided by funding through the JRI grant.

While COVID 19 has not affected services provided by the at:project, it has affected the rental market in Central Oregon making it more difficult to find safe, affordable, long-term housing in our region.

In 500 words or less please summarize the services that your agency was able to provide during the last reporting period. Please include numbers that show victim's served and counts of services provided if applicable. This will be used to report out to our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

(8) The Housing Partnership Program provided housing navigation support, rental application fees, deposit assistance and housing retention assistance for victims of human trafficking. Housing navigation was provided to 11 victims of human trafficking. Rental deposit assistance was provided to 8 clients. Housing retention in the form of 1 month of rental assistance was provided to 9 clients. 8 victims of trafficking and additional 8 family members moved into safe long-term housing.

Service Provided	# of victim's served
Total # of Victim's Served	11
Housing Navigation	11
Housing Application Fees	2
Deposit Assistance	8
Housing Retention / Rent	9
Approved and moved into long-term housing	8 victims and an additional 8 family members



JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT VICTIMS 10% ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTY: DESCHUTES

VICTIMS SERVICES PROVIDER: CASA OF CENTRAL OREGON

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT: JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

PROGRAM/PERFORMANCE SITE: CASA OF CENTRAL OREGON

ADDRESS: 1029 NW 14TH ST, SUITE 100

CITY: BEND

ZIP: 97703

PROGRAM CONTACT: HEATHER DION **CONTACT EMAIL:**

HDION@CASAOFCENTRALOREGON.ORG

No of LPSCC MEETINGS ATTENDED: 1

REPORT PREPARED BY: HEATHER DION

Within your answers to the specific questions outlined below, please be sure to include the following information where applicable:

- **Major Activities and Accomplishments:** Include progress to date since the beginning of the grant, along with any indicators of progress during the reporting period, for example:
 - Number of Victims served, including marginalized and underserved populations
 - Specific service achievements, including barriers addressed and increasing capacity
 - Any other benchmarks important to Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services
- **Collaboration:** Information about Project Partners and increased collaboration
- **Training:** Describe any training for professionals to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role.
- **Problems:** Describe any deviations from the original grant application over the reporting period. This might include issues with successfully implementing programs or activities.
- **Significant Events:** Highlight particular points or experiences that might be helpful in identifying successes.
- **Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period:** Briefly describe the plan for Justice Reinvestment Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services going forward, including how to address any problems identified in the narrative.

Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services 10% Description

How is program implementation progressing? Highlight relevant challenges or successes. Include program quantitative or qualitative data as available.

(1) CASA of Central Oregon is a nonprofit organization that recruits, trains, supports and supervises volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) who advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children. CASA works in the court system and throughout the community, advocating for child victims who have been placed in foster care. At that initial shelter hearing,

the Judge is required by Oregon law (ORS 419B.112) to appoint CASA to represent the child's best interests in all court proceedings. To establish jurisdiction over the parent/caregiver of the minor, the Judge must find the child has suffered injury due to abuse, neglect, and/or faces an imminent threat of serious harm.

Funding from the JRI Victim Services grant has allowed CASA of Central Oregon to serve more child victims in Deschutes County with high quality advocacy. CASA has been able to respond to the evolving needs of children entering the foster care system in Central Oregon.

Although CASA does not yet have the resources to pair a trained and supported volunteer advocate with every child, the percentage of children who are able to be served has improved over the past year, thanks in part to JRI funds. Last year, 145 CASA Advocates served 84% of the 340 children in Deschutes County who spent time in foster care. Across Oregon, less than 50% of children in foster care have a CASA; the JRI Victim's Services Grant has helped CASA of Central Oregon serve most children in foster care in Deschutes County.

While National CASA standards do not consider a child to be fully "served" unless that child has an advocate, CASA of Central Oregon staff monitors *every* child in foster care, attends *all* court hearings, and works to triage cases to ensure the most critical cases receive an advocate as quickly as possible.

With the JRI funding, CASA has maintained/increased staff hours for direct recruitment, training, support, and supervision of 42 new Advocates who were trained and took cases in the last year. These advocates are providing support to children in Deschutes County who would otherwise not have an advocate.

Describe any changes in the use of grant funding that are significantly different from what was proposed in your original application.

(2) The grant funds were used as proposed in the original application.

Describe how grant funds have been used to provide services specifically targeting marginalized and underserved populations.

(3) Children entering the foster care system due to parental abuse or neglect are perhaps one of the most marginalized, at-risk populations there is: minors who have experienced profound trauma and lack a functional parent or effective family safety net. Most children who come into foster care due to parental fault are living below the poverty line, miss many days of school, and go without access to regular preventative health and dental care.

National studies show that children of color and LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in the foster care system. Locally, census data shows that 14% of Deschutes County residents are identified as any race besides white. From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, 31% of children in foster care in Deschutes County were non-white. Notably, 3% of the children

in foster care were identified as Native American and 3% were black, compared to 0% and 1% of the Deschutes County population. To recognize the unique needs of these children, all CASA volunteers receive specialized training in working with populations who have experienced historic inequity, including LGBTQ+ children, children with Native ancestry, and children of color. New CASAs receive an overview of the culturally specific and individualized needs of the children in our program. This helps them to be aware of children's needs and provide the best possible advocacy. Topics covered in CASA training include cultural competency, Indian Child Welfare Act, and LGBTQ identity.

In addition to involvement in juvenile dependency proceedings, CASA is also involved on behalf of the child when the parent is implicated in a concurrent criminal case. This includes children who have one or more parent facing criminal charges related to child abuse (including child sexual abuse) and children with a parent who is currently incarcerated. Children with an incarcerated parent are at risk to experience a long list of challenges, and when combined with exposure to significant childhood trauma, this demographic is an extremely marginalized and underserved population – one that CASA volunteer advocates are specifically trained to serve.

National studies have found that CASA's advocacy is effective. Children in foster care who are assigned to a CASA volunteer are more likely to have access to services, they have better outcomes in school, and they are half as likely to re-enter the foster care system once their case closes.

Describe how grant funds have addressed access barriers including, but not limited to, language, literacy, disability, transportation and cultural practices.

(4) The support of staff hours through JRI funds has continued to allowed CASA employees time to assist both new and existing advocates with removing barriers to services for children, and to continue to address a problematic barrier: transportation. Building off the 2015 Justice Reinvestment Program award that expanded CASA services to older youth through the Fostering Futures project, and the JRI Victim's Services funds from FY 15-19, some CASA volunteers and staff are allowed to transport youth to certain activities and classes in order to build community, promote resilience, and develop life skills for the transition into adulthood. CASA of Central Oregon is one of the few programs in the state that provides this benefit and it greatly enhances the lives of children in foster care. CASA volunteers have taken children to the rock climbing gym, to visit with siblings placed in other homes, and to extracurricular activities. In addition, each CASA volunteer goes to visit their assigned child at least once a month wherever the child is placed in Central Oregon and often beyond. In several cases where a child was placed in the Willamette Valley or the Portland metro area, their CASA volunteer was the only familiar and friendly person who visited them from home.

One other barrier that CASA is addressing is targeting recruitment of bi-lingual Spanish-speaking CASA volunteers. Additional staff time funded through Victim's Services has increased our number of bi-lingual volunteers, allowed translation of our recruitment materials to Spanish, and has allowed us to better serve children and families who are most comfortable speaking Spanish. With the continued increase in need in this area, CASA must continue to expand bi-lingual capacity.

Finally, the majority of the school-aged children we serve are either on an IEP or had a 504 plan. CASA advocates are trained to attend all special education meetings at the child's school, and the staff identified and trained an experienced volunteer "Peer Mentors" (who happens to be retired special education teachers) to provide mentorship to other volunteers who are facing challenges with advocating in the special education arena.

Describe how grant funds have increased capacity in areas where services are difficult to access, limited, or non-existent.

(5) CASA of Central Oregon is the only agency tasked by law to represent the best interest of a child in all court proceedings. Without JRI funding, fewer children would have had access to a CASA in Deschutes County. Given the high caseload numbers for ODHS child welfare staff, dependency judges and court-appointed attorneys, having the consistency of a CASA volunteer is essential. CASA staff and volunteers work with all children in foster care in the County, and notably the per capita removal rate of children due to abuse/neglect is highest in South County (the zip codes in/around La Pine), an area with substantially fewer services and high rates of poverty. As parties to the underlying legal action(s) involving the child's parent(s), CASA of Central Oregon volunteers are able to interface with the child, family, school, therapists and specialists – and CASA is the only organization of its kind empowered by law to create this broad safety net.

The state statute tasks CASA volunteers with the duties of investigating all relevant information about a case; advocating for a child to ensure that all relevant facts are brought before the court; facilitating and negotiating to ensure that the court, ODHS, and the child's attorney fulfill their obligations to a child in a timely fashion; and monitoring all court orders to ensure compliance. To provide high quality advocate, CASA volunteers make sure that a child is connected to appropriate physical and mental health services, stay in close communication with the child's foster placement, and meet with the child's teachers, extended family, therapists, physicians, Child Welfare case workers, and any other possible resource who may provide a needed service for the child. Making sure court-ordered services are provided in an extremely over-burdened system, as well as identifying and connecting children and youth to needed services, are a fundamental part of advocating for the child's best interests.

All these steps are geared towards helping a child recover from trauma and rebuild a childhood. The CASA staff assists the volunteer advocates and ensures that the advocate knows about the many appropriate community resources available, including system based (ODHS Child Welfare/DA-based services/Deschutes County Behavioral Health) and non-system based (KIDS Center/Saving Grace/MountainStar/etc.) agencies, and aids navigating the legal processes.

Describe how grant funds have been used to support trauma-informed interventions and services.

(6) Because under Oregon law, “child abuse” is defined as “any assault of a child and any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means, and includes in relevant part: sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, negligent treatment or maltreatment, threatened harm, and unlawful exposure to a controlled substance”, children who enter foster care due to allegations of abuse or neglect have almost always experienced significant trauma. More concerning still, once a child enters the foster care system, that child’s needs are often unaddressed and underserved by the foster care system, and the child’s “ACE” (Adverse Childhood Experience) score continues to climb during his/her time in care. On average, a child experiencing foster care in Deschutes County will have three different caseworkers and three different foster placements, but just one CASA advocate. That consistent relationship with a safe, positive adult who gets to know the child, and understand his/her/their unique challenges, history, and strengths, can be an essential piece of connecting the child to needed services. Due to the power of this intervention, children with a CASA advocate spend, on average, less time in the foster care system than children without this intervention. In addition, children and youth assigned a CASA volunteer reported significantly higher levels of hope. A child’s hope has been linked to numerous positive outcomes such as academic success, overall wellbeing, increases in self-control, positive social relationships, and optimism.

Describe how COVID 19 has impacted your services in relations to the services outline in your JRI grant application.

(7) Due to the COVID pandemic, CASA staff had to change the way we trained advocates, and the way that we interacted with the children we serve. The advocate pre-service training moved to an online platform and JRI funding allowed staff to work with volunteers to find creative ways to stay in touch with child victims while maintaining safe distances. These distance measures have since been removed and CASA volunteers are able to meet in person with the children they advocate for.

It has been widely reported that that there has been an increase in substance abuse, drug overdoses, and domestic violence in the last few years. Children are often the most innocent victims of adults in crisis. Our organization anticipated that this would cause more children to enter foster care and it has proven to be true in Deschutes County. On January 1, 2020, there were 172 children from Deschutes County in foster care. On January 1, 2022, there were 219 children in foster care in Deschutes County. This number remains has consistent remained above pre-pandemic levels in our community.

In 500 words or less please summarize the services that your agency was able to provide during the last reporting period. Please include numbers that show victim’s served and counts of services provided if applicable. This will be used to report out to our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

(8) With the JRI funding, CASA has recruited and trained an additional 42 new CASA volunteers to serve children in foster care. This resulted in 145 CASA Advocates serving 84% of the 340 children in Deschutes County in FY 22-23.

Every volunteer CASA completes 40 hours of trauma-informed training, including a background check and an interview with a district court judge, before becoming sworn-in as an officer of the court. After completing their oath, a CASA spends an average of 10-15 hours a month advocating for the children until the case closes and the children have a safe and permanent home. This process takes about two years, on average. The CASA gets to know the child while also gathering information from the child's family, teachers, doctors, and caregivers, among others. CASA volunteers make independent and informed recommendations to help the judge decide what is in the best interest for the child. In addition, CASA volunteers work closely with ODHS caseworkers to ensure that the basic physical, emotional, and educational needs of the child are met during their time in foster care. A staff member supports the volunteer CASA through the entire case, including helping them navigate the child welfare system and work with the specific challenges that are unique to their case.

National studies have found that a CASAs advocacy is effective. When children in foster care have a CASA advocating for them, they fare better within the system. They receive the services they need to heal from abuse and neglect, they do better in school, and they are less likely to re-enter foster care once their case closes.



JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT VICTIMS 10% ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTY: DESCHUTES

VICTIMS SERVICES PROVIDER: KIDS CENTER

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT: JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023

PROGRAM/PERFORMANCE SITE: KIDS CENTER

ADDRESS: 1375 NW KINGSTON AVE

CITY: BEND **ZIP:** 97703

PROGRAM CONTACT: GIL LEVY **CONTACT EMAIL:** GLEVY@KIDSCENTER.ORG

No of LPSCC MEETINGS ATTENDED: 7

REPORT PREPARED BY: DANIELLE MACBAIN

Within your answers to the specific questions outlined below, please be sure to include the following information where applicable:

- **Major Activities and Accomplishments:** Include progress to date since the beginning of the grant, along with any indicators of progress during the reporting period, for example:
 - Number of Victims served, including marginalized and underserved populations
 - Specific service achievements, including barriers addressed and increasing capacity
 - Any other benchmarks important to Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services
- **Collaboration:** Information about Project Partners and increased collaboration
- **Training:** Describe any training for professionals to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role.
- **Problems:** Describe any deviations from the original grant application over the reporting period. This might include issues with successfully implementing programs or activities.
- **Significant Events:** Highlight particular points or experiences that might be helpful in identifying successes.
- **Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period:** Briefly describe the plan for Justice Reinvestment Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services going forward, including how to address any problems identified in the narrative.

Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services 10% Description

How is program implementation progressing? Highlight relevant challenges or successes. Include program quantitative or qualitative data as available.

(1) During the period 7/1/2022-6/30/2023, KIDS Center provided 310 children from Deschutes County with comprehensive child abuse evaluation services. All staff who are funded through this grant provided the services outlined in our application, including medical examinations, forensic interviews and family advocacy and support services. Along with our community partners in law enforcement, DHS child welfare, local school districts, and other human service providers, KIDS Center's team has worked diligently to maintain the quality and capacity of our services throughout the year. This remains an extremely challenging period in which to operate, and we

observed many of our community partners experienced workforce challenges including turnover and staff shortages. Despite these issues, the project implementation has occurred as planned and desired during this time.

Describe any changes in the use of grant funding that are significantly different from what was proposed in your original application.

(2) There are no significant changes in the use of the grant funding that are different from what was proposed in our application.

Describe how grant funds have been used to provide services specifically targeting marginalized and underserved populations.

(3) Funds have been used to provide child abuse evaluation services to children and families who are victims of abuse, and their non-offending caregivers and siblings. Most of our clients are low-income, have fewer resources, and have experienced significant trauma within their family life. This may include children who have experienced drug endangerment, neglect, poor living conditions, or witnessed domestic violence, as well as being the victim of physical or sexual abuse themselves. Often these children do not have established relationships with other human services or related external support until abuse is uncovered. KIDS Center's services are a key factor in identifying whether abuse has occurred, helping children and their families heal from trauma, and keeping children safe in our community.

Describe how grant funds have addressed access barriers including, but not limited to, language, literacy, disability, transportation and cultural practices.

(4) During the grant period, KIDS Center has maintained access to services for children from across Deschutes County. Our team has worked diligently to ensure children and families have all the information and resources needed to access our child abuse evaluations services. We recognize many families must plan a special trip to our center on the day of the evaluation, and we work with them to ensure they have a means of transportation, that they understand the focus of their visit, and that any barriers to accessing services are identified and addressed. This could entail coordinating transportation for a family or providing a Spanish-language interpreter to accompany them for the duration of their visit on the day of their evaluation. Signage in our building includes both Spanish and English, and our building includes a client lending library curated by our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team made up of books that are age appropriate and culturally diverse.

Describe how grant funds have increased capacity in areas where services are difficult to access, limited, or non-existent.

(5) Funds have been used to provide partial salary support for the key positions of medical examiner, forensic interviewer and family advocate. Staff in these positions provide direct service to children and families during a child abuse investigation. Child abuse impacts children from across Deschutes County, including our more rural and underserved areas within the county.

Describe how grant funds have been used to support trauma-informed interventions and services.

(6) The entire spectrum of services KIDS Center provides are highly trauma informed. Services are designed to ensure that all clients, their families, and our staff team and partners receive a trauma informed approach. This entails working hard to minimize retraumatizing children, using trauma informed therapy modalities such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, trauma-informed forensic interviewing, trauma-informed language and approaches when conducting medical examinations, and ensuring that involved professionals protect against secondary traumatic stress and burnout.

Describe how COVID 19 has impacted your services in relations to the services outline in your JRI grant application.

(7) While COVID-19 has significantly impacted our services throughout this grant period, in 2023 we have had some sense of normalcy return. We continued to follow all required OHA COVID-19 guidelines through April 3, 2023, when the masking requirements were rescinded for health care settings.

We have also found that many of our community partners have experienced staffing shortages and some employee turnover, which impacts the services we provide. There have been times when law enforcement and child welfare (DHS) simply do not have the personnel available to attend an evaluation, for example, which they strongly desire to do, and would typically have always done prior to the pandemic. We are working closely with all our partners to brainstorm ways to move through these challenges together. Fortunately, we are beginning to see these challenges ease and subsequently our work with our partners is trending towards pre-COVID normalcy.

As always, KIDS Center will continue to focus on providing high quality child abuse evaluations to all Deschutes County children who are in need. We will continue to work closely with our community partners to identify strategies to serve children and families quickly, and to work through challenges we all face due to post-pandemic life, the current economic conditions, and the overall stresses that come with operating in these turbulent times. We anticipate serving a similar number of children during the next reporting period.

In 500 words or less please summarize the services that your agency was able to provide during the last reporting period. Please include numbers that show victim's served and counts of services provided if applicable. This will be used to report out to our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

(8) During the period 7/1/2022-6/30/2023, KIDS Center provided 310 children from Deschutes County with comprehensive child abuse evaluation services including medical examination, forensic interview, family advocacy, and crisis therapy. While we know that JRI funds are fully covering costs for 17 comprehensive child abuse evaluations over the course of the two-year grant period, KIDS Center is providing the overall Deschutes County data to illustrate the degree of community need that these funds are helping to address.

Services provided during the period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 include:

Children receiving medical examinations: 219

Case reviews conducted by medical examiners: 73

Children receiving forensic interviews: 221

Children and families receiving advocacy and support: 237

Children and families receiving crisis therapy: 76



JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT VICTIMS 10% ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTY: DESCHUTES

VICTIMS SERVICES PROVIDER: SAVING GRACE

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT: 7/1/22-6/30/23

PROGRAM/PERFORMANCE SITE: MARYS PLACE SUPERVISED VISITATION & SAFE EXCHANGE CENTER

ADDRESS: 1130 NW HARRIMAN SUITE A **CITY:** BEND

ZIP: 97703

PROGRAM CONTACT: GAIL BARTLEY **CONTACT EMAIL:** GAIL@MARYSPL.ORG

No of LPSCC MEETINGS ATTENDED: 12

REPORT PREPARED BY: GAIL BARTLEY

Within your answers to the specific questions outlined below, please be sure to include the following information where applicable:

- **Major Activities and Accomplishments:** Include progress to date since the beginning of the grant, along with any indicators of progress during the reporting period, for example:
 - Number of Victims served, including marginalized and underserved populations
 - Specific service achievements, including barriers addressed and increasing capacity
 - Any other benchmarks important to Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services
- **Collaboration:** Information about Project Partners and increased collaboration
- **Training:** Describe any training for professionals to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role.
- **Problems:** Describe any deviations from the original grant application over the reporting period. This might include issues with successfully implementing programs or activities.
- **Significant Events:** Highlight particular points or experiences that might be helpful in identifying successes.
- **Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period:** Briefly describe the plan for Justice Reinvestment Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services going forward, including how to address any problems identified in the narrative.

Community Based Non-Profit Victims Services 10% Description

How is program implementation progressing? Highlight relevant challenges or successes. Include program quantitative or qualitative data as available.

(1) The Mary's Place program continued as expected during the reporting period. During the reporting period, Mary's Place provided 78 unduplicated families (consisting of 156 adults) and 129 children with 507 safe exchanges and 713 supervised visits. We would define 78 of the adults as victims and all 129 children as victims as well, or 207 total victims. MP has a relatively fixed capacity due to both the cost of the program and limits of available funding as well as the fact that we

operate in a shared space which is only available on evenings and weekends. Given these limits, MP prioritizes cases with the highest level of need re: safety for adult and child victims and the court also understands MP capacity is limited and refers only those cases which they determine to be higher risk. In a perfect world MP would be able to serve more cases, as we know not all cases which would benefit from supervised visit or safe exchange are referred, nor would we be able to serve them all.

Describe any changes in the use of grant funding that are significantly different from what was proposed in your original application.

(2) No changes.

Describe how grant funds have been used to provide services specifically targeting marginalized and underserved populations.

(3) Of 209 individuals who participated in supervised visits or safe exchanges during the reporting period (adults and children combined) underserved groups were identified as follows: 4% Native American, 6% Black/African American, 23% Latino, 2% LES (limited English speaking), 5% disabled and 32% rural. All survivors of domestic violence are also considered by Saving Grace and the field of intimate partner violence intervention to be an underserved population. It is dangerous for victims of DV to come forward and leave a DV relationship. Once having left, survivors face economic and legal challenges, exacerbated when children are involved, as is the case with all survivors who work with Mary's Place. Sadly, the majority of victims of DV never seek help due to the risks and barriers involved. 78 of the individuals served are adult survivors of intimate partner violence by their partner and 100% of all children served (129) are also victims of domestic violence. Living in a home where domestic violence occurs is always impactful and traumatic to children.

Describe how grant funds have addressed access barriers including, but not limited to, language, literacy, disability, transportation and cultural practices.

(4) The JRI grant funds does not fund our bi-lingual (Spanish) visit and exchange facilitator who serves all Spanish speakers (our only non-English clients in the grant period). However, all services at MP are provided with consideration of the unique needs of each family and individual. This includes providing documents for clients in 14 pt. font and at 8th grade or lower literacy level with all documents available in Spanish for Spanish-speakers; providing transportation assistance (Uber rides, gas and bus vouchers) for those with transportation challenges, accommodations as needed for disabilities to ensure those individuals are able to fully access services, and respect for cultural practices for visiting families such as acknowledging family traditions/celebrations with the caveat that practices which have been associated with abuse of the child or adult survivor would not be permitted.

Describe how grant funds have increased capacity in areas where services are difficult to access, limited, or non-existent.

(5) Mary's Place is the sole provider of free, domestic violence intervention specific supervised visitation and safe exchange services east of the Cascades, and one of only two such programs in Oregon. Grant funds allowed us to continue to offer safety-focused supervised visitation and safe exchange for at-risk families where at least one parent resides in Deschutes County. These services are otherwise completely unavailable regionally. There is only one other fee-based provider located in Crook County, and no provider offering services with the particular focus on intervening in

families where there are safety risks during parenting time to adult survivors and children due to DV, sexual assault, stalking, or child sex abuse. Mary's Place operates on a national model developed and monitored by the Office of Violence Against Women, DOJ.

Describe how grant funds have been used to support trauma-informed interventions and services.

(6) Supervised visits between children and parents or exchanges of children between parents in which one parent has caused harm to the adult survivor and children were conducted at all levels with consideration for the trauma history (and ongoing trauma and stress) experienced by the participants. Check-ins occurred regularly with adult survivors and children to ensure that any concerns they had regarding safety were able to be heard and addressed. Check-ins occurred in private, calm, spaces when on-site at Mary's Place and also for adults via phone if needed. Children who refused to visit or exchange due to fear were never forced to participate, but listened to and given options such as just saying hello to a visiting parent, sending a note, etc. Children were always given the choice to end a visit when they were ready with no repercussions allowed if they chose to do so. Adult survivors were connected with Saving Grace advocates for additional support. During orientation/intake appointments, adult survivors were able to choose how much of their history they chose to share or not. All children participated in a child orientation to become familiar with the sights, sounds, smells, and process of doing visits or exchanges at Mary's Place, met the staff who would facilitate their services, and given the chance to share concerns, hopes or expectations about their contact with parent who had caused harm or non-custodial parent.

Describe how COVID 19 has impacted your services in relations to the services outline in your JRI grant application.

(7) Up until March 2023 all participating families were screened for COVID 19 when accessing services. While COVID 19 infections were still present in the community and within our service population during FY 22-23, we did not see a major impact on our ability to deliver services. We had lifted our mask requirement by July 2022 which was a huge relief for everyone.

In 500 words or less please summarize the services that your agency was able to provide during the last reporting period. Please include numbers that show victim's served and counts of services provided if applicable. This will be used to report out to our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

(8) During the reporting period, Mary's Place provided 78 unduplicated families (consisting of 156 adults) and 129 children with 507 safe exchanges and 713 supervised visits. We would define 78 of the adults as victims and all 129 children as victims as well, or 207 total victims. On average, visits for each family occurred once per week for 2 hours and exchanges on average were twice per week although could be more frequent. Adult victims received anonymous feedback surveys quarterly and 70 overall were returned during the reporting period. 96% reported "Strongly agree" or "agree" to the statements "Using Mary's Place for visits or exchanges has made me feel safe" and "Mary's Place

and its staff have helped my children to feel comfortable and safe.” Some comments from surveys included “I am beyond grateful for Mary’s Place. The safety and care you all provide is amazing and I’m not sure how I would have navigated otherwise!” “I had no idea such an establishment existed and when you are navigating trauma and things out of one’s control, its nice to feel safe with the organization, communication and care that Mary’s Place takes off your shoulders, heart and mind.” “We could not have survived this nightmare without you!” Mary’s Place works collaboratively with the Deschutes County Circuit Court, Deschutes County Behavioral Health, law enforcement, Legal Aid and private attorneys all on behalf of improving safety outcomes for families involved in our program. MP is an established program and operates out of shared space in a Deschutes County building which is an in-kind contribution from the County. Saving Grace has increased staff compensation in the current reporting period in an effort to provide a living wage and retain quality staff. If funded in the next reporting period, we anticipate a need for increased funding to maintain our current level of service delivery due to those increased costs and the impact of inflation on overall program costs.