

## **BYRNE/JAG AUTHORIZED PURPOSE AREA: Victim Services**

### **Program Title: Family Justice Center Site Coordinator**

#### ***A. Problem Statement***

According to the Violence Policy Center's 2015 report, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2013 Homicide Data", Tennessee ranks sixth (a tie with Oklahoma) overall for states where men murder women. Since the inception of the report in the late 1990's, Tennessee has ranked consistently in the top 15 states. The documented and published outcomes in the Family Justice Center model have included: reduced homicides; increased victim safety; increased autonomy and empowerment for victims; reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children; increased efficiency and coordination among service providers; and reduced recantation and minimization by victims when wrapped in services and support. (See Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack, Hope for Hurting Families: Creating Family Justice Centers Across America (Volcano Press 2006)). The Family Justice Center approach is based on the San Diego Family Justice Center model which has been identified as a **best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services** by the [United States Department of Justice](#).

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has identified that the following activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. Projects that propose any of the below practices will not be considered for funding under this purpose area. These practices include: **1)** Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children; **2)** Automatic pre-trial diversion programs; **3)** Mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence; **4)** Operating domestic violence batterer intervention programs that are not court-ordered or court-monitored; **5)** Utilizing anger management classes instead of court-ordered batterer intervention programs; **6)** Requiring victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to file for a protection order or file criminal charges against their abusers as a condition of receiving services; **7)** Using practices or procedures that fail to protect the confidentiality and safety of victims; (e.g., not utilizing advocates for safety planning, unsafe ways/means of contacting victims); **8)** Referring victims to Child Protection Services solely for failure to protect their minor child from witnessing domestic violence; **9)** Procedures that would penalize victims of violence for failing to testify against their abusers or impose other sanctions on victims; **10)** Sharing confidential victim information with outside organizations and/or individuals without the documented consent of the victim; and **11)** Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving services.

#### ***B. Program Description/Purpose***

A Family Justice Center is a co-location of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence which must at a minimum address victims of domestic violence, but can also include sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking and elder abuse. Co-location of services is defined as

having adequate space for the provision of services by public and private entities, insuring victim safety and confidentiality. The core concept is to provide one place where victims can receive services such as talking to an advocate, planning for safety, interviewing with a police officer, meeting with a prosecutor, receiving medical assistance, receiving information on shelter and getting help with transportation.

The project funded under this program will follow the best practice model identified on the Family Justice Center Alliance website ([www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)) and must obtain technical assistance from the OCJP identified technical assistance providers for the planning, development and establishment a Family Justice Center. Applicants must agree to work with the technical assistance providers throughout the three year project.

### ***C. Goals and Objectives***

**Goal:** Enhance victims' safety and improve the likelihood of successful navigation of the criminal and civil justice processes by providing access to a multi-disciplinary public and private team of professionals who work together under one roof, to provide coordinated services.

**Objective 1:** Develop Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) at a minimum with Chief of Police, Sheriff, Domestic Violence Program, City/County Mayor, and Civil Legal. More MOU's can be submitted by other partner agencies.

**Objective 2:** Develop a plan for locating a site for the Family Justice Center.

**Objective 3:** Hire a full-time Site Coordinator.

### ***D. Inputs and Activities***

By the start of the third year of the project, a Family Justice Center will be open and providing services to victims.

Activities under the grant must include at a minimum:

- A. Hiring a project coordinator who will be responsible for fulfilling the obligations of the activities of the grant;
- B. Submitting MOU's to OCJP;
- C. Reporting how much additional money has been acquired from other sources to aid in this project. Funds can be in-kind and in cash.
- D. Establishing a timeline that includes action steps, person(s) responsible for the activity and projected dates for completion;
- E. Obtaining technical assistance from the OCJP designated statewide technical assistance provider;
- F. Conducting assessments of the community's domestic violence problem as well as the services available to address the problem;
- G. Coordinating and conducting planning meetings with relevant partners and local agencies monthly;
- H. Strengthening existing collaborative partnerships;
- I. Developing a strategic plan that includes sustainability;
- J. Establishing a Family Justice Center and each of its unique, innovative components with resources already in the community (ex. advocacy, building, victim services etc.);
- K. Developing an evaluation plan;
- L. Developing and implementing a case management information system that will provide for data integration across systems and among participating agencies;

- M. Participating in community meetings, webinars and/or facilitating community forums for the purpose of promoting and educating the community on the concept and benefits of the Family Justice Center;
- N. Conducting survivor focus groups and incorporating the information in the planning for the FJC; and
- O. Providing services from a Family Justice Center by the third year of the project.

### ***E. Performance Measures***

The following measures will be reported to OCJP on a quarterly or annual basis. It is expected that the agency will develop tracking systems to report performance measures as required.

1. Family Justice Center Site Coordinator position filled within 45 days of the grant award;
2. Activities timeline updated and reports submitted quarterly;
3. Number of contacts/meetings with Statewide TA Coordinator;
4. Number of presentations attended/provided at community meetings and forums to promote and educate on the concept and benefits of establishing Family Justice Centers;
5. Number of survivor focus groups completed;
6. Community assessment completed;
7. Community Planning Team established, to include but not limited to: domestic violence shelter(s), county/city officials, law enforcement, prosecution, community based advocates, and legal services agencies;
8. Number of meetings held with the community planning team members and other community stakeholders involved in the establishment and sustainability of the project;
9. Number of local community forums attended;
10. Participation in on-site tour(s) conducted at FJCs;
11. Participation in meetings hosted by OCJP and/or the Statewide TA Coordinator;
12. Number of training sessions attended on topics required to assist with planning, establishing, running and sustaining a FJC, hosted by the Statewide TA Coordinator;
13. Number of partners signing MOUs, indicating commitment to participate in the project;
14. Family Justice Center established and operational;
15. Number of victims accessing services at the Family Justice Center;
16. Number of domestic violence incidents with law enforcement;
17. Number of domestic violence arrests;
18. Number of domestic violence prosecutions;
19. Victims report increased access to and use of services;
20. Victims report feeling safer as a result of services received at the FJC;
21. Family Justice Center site coordinators and community partners report improvement of coordinated community response to domestic violence and victim safety.

### ***F. Key Milestones/Intended Outcomes***

Projects funded under this solicitation will implement activities that will lead to the successful implementation of a Family Justice Center. Key milestones that are required to be met, and demonstrate that the project is on target to open a Family Justice Center:

- A. Hiring a project coordinator who will be responsible for fulfilling the obligations of the activities of the grant;
- B. By December 31, 2016, signed MOU's are in place;
- C. By December 31, 2016, sites must demonstrate a working relationship with the statewide technical assistance provider. Throughout the three year project period, the

program must demonstrate a continued working relationship with the statewide technical assistance provider;

- D. By December 31, 2016, sites must have visited at least one FJC for a tour and to gain more information regarding daily operations;
- E. During the first 12 months, programs must attend trainings/meetings conducted by OCJP and the statewide technical assistance provider. Each of the three years will require additional training and meetings attendance;
- F. By December 31, 2017, programs must be able to identify a site location and be able to demonstrate activities that exemplify that their team is working towards a co-location of services; and
- G. By July 1, 2018, programs must have opened their Family Justice Center site and be able to demonstrate their information/case management shared system.

#### ***F. Data Collection Procedure***

Projects funded through this program:

- Must collect all data needed to report on any federal or state required performance measures for correctional programs
- Will analyze effectiveness of the program through the completion of OCJP Quarterly Performance Measures Reports and Annual reports.
- Must collect and report statistics and anecdotal data for replication of the program.
- Will be monitored for adherence to contract narratives, OCJP and BJA program requirements.
- Will use data collected for program evaluation purposes to determine need for expansion or modification.