

Oregon Children's Justice Act Annual Report May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division
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Introduction

Oregon's Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force was established in 1987 per the requirements set forth in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (PL 111-320) (CAPTA). The mission of the CJA Task Force is to review and assess how Oregon's child protection and criminal justice systems handle child maltreatment cases including abuse, neglect, fatalities, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and children with disabilities and serious health related problems who may have been abused or neglected and to make policy and training recommendations for improving interventions including limiting additional trauma to children and their families.

Administration of the CJA in Oregon

In Oregon, the CJA grant has been administered by the Oregon Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) since 2018, when the grant was transferred from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). The Oregon Department of Justice is headed by the Oregon Attorney General, Ellen F. Rosenblum, and has ten divisions:

- [Office of the Attorney General](#)
- [Administrative Services Division](#)
- [Appellate Division](#)
- [Child Advocacy and Protection Division](#)
- [Child Support Division »](#)
- [Civil Enforcement Division](#)
- [Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division »](#)
- [Criminal Justice Division](#)
- [General Counsel Division](#)
- [Trial Division](#)

CVSSD administers federal victim services grants including the Victims of Crimes Act grant and the Violence Against Women Act grant. CVSSD also administers several state victim services grants including the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund, Survivor Housing Fund, Children's Advocacy Center Fund, and the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program (CAMI). CVSSD provides victim services grant funding to and

maintains relationships with Oregon's 9 federally recognized Tribal Nations. CVSSD administers Oregon's Crime Victims' Compensation Program and Post-Conviction Victim Advocacy Program and provides statewide coordination and technical assistance in victims' rights and human trafficking. CVSSD also houses the Oregon Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit (CRU) which implements programs including the Bias Response Hotline and Sanctuary Hotline. CVSSD staff interact regularly and share information, insights, resources, perspectives and expertise to enhance administration of grants and programs division wide.

Administration of the CJA grant is provided by the CAMI Program. The purpose and uses of CJA and CAMI funds are closely aligned. The CAMI Program provides funds to support child abuse multidisciplinary intervention teams (MDTs) in each of Oregon's 36 counties. MDTs use the funds to support local Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), ensure MDT members receive training in child abuse intervention, and fill gaps in local child abuse response. In addition, the CAMI Program provides grants to Regional Children's Advocacy Centers (RCACs) and to Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS), Oregon's chapter of the National Children's Alliance. Recipients of these regional grants work in close collaboration with one another and with the CAMI Program to provide training, technical assistance, and support for Oregon's CACs and MDTs. Additionally, the CAMI Program administrator oversees the Children's Advocacy Center Fund grants, one time funding from the Oregon legislature intended to maintain or expand CAC services. By coordinating these funding sources, the CAMI Program maximizes their impact on improving child abuse intervention across Oregon.

Other divisions at the Oregon Department of Justice support child abuse intervention efforts as well, and CJA benefits from the proximity and teamwork made possible by being housed together within the Oregon Department of Justice. The Child Advocacy and Protection Division provides quality and timely legal advice and effective court representation to the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Program (DHS CWP) to protect children from abuse and neglect and to support families, allowing children to grow up in safe and stable environments. The District Attorney/Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) of the Criminal Justice Division supports district attorneys in each of Oregon's 36 counties by providing around-the-clock legal advice as well as supporting investigation and prosecution of complex criminal cases including child abuse cases. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) of the Criminal Justice Division focuses on investigating, prosecuting, and preventing the sexual exploitation of children on the internet.

Task Force Membership and Function

During the reporting period, May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, Oregon's CJA Task Force, which consists of both the statutorily required members and additional members who also serve on the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Advisory Council (CAMI AC), met quarterly with a drop-in hour related to completion of the three year assessment field reports hosted in lieu of one regular meeting. During the reporting period, Task Force members also participated in several work group meetings focused on improving inclusion of survivor and parent voices in the assessment process. To promote awareness of trends, emerging practices, best practices, challenges in the field and available resources, Task Force members are included in weekly emails sent by the CJA administrator to child abuse intervention grantees and child abuse MDT partners. CJA Task Force meetings regularly include topical presentations germane to the mission of the Task Force. During the reporting period, topical presentations included Amelia Siders from the Western Regional CAC presenting information about addressing challenges to accessing mental health in rural areas and Shelly Smith and Pamela Heisler from OCAS presenting information on the longitudinal evaluation of the impact of the CJA funded Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training. Task Force meetings also included discussion of the three-year needs assessment, the Outcome Measurement System used by Children's Advocacy Centers to evaluate services, and improving diversity, equity and inclusion in child abuse intervention including the Task Force. The purpose

of these presentations and discussions is to increase awareness and understanding of challenges in the field and best and emerging practices. These presentations launch conversation among the membership about potential priorities or activities for the Task Force. The Task Force operates under bylaws that are regularly reviewed by membership and staff. Bylaws are provided to prospective members as part of the onboarding process. Member recommendations are solicited from the Task Force membership, nominated by CVSSD and appointed by the Attorney General. The Task Force does not currently have any subcommittees. Past meeting minutes, upcoming meeting dates, award amounts, reports, membership information and other resources are available on the [Oregon CJA Task Force web page](#).

Membership of the Task Force is comprised of highly competent, experienced, and dedicated professionals from across Oregon. Members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. They draw on their knowledge and expertise to analyze our systems and make recommendations for improved response to child abuse including focus on providing consistent and equitable response across the state. Over the past year, attendance and participation at meetings has continued to be strong, with many members continuing to serve on the Task Force. The majority of our meetings continue to be virtual, allowing for easier participation from busy professionals including those in remote areas of the state. Inevitably there has been some turnover during the reporting period. New Task Force members since the last report include an additional health professional, Dr. Natalya Miller, Medical Director of Jackson County Children's Advocacy Center in southern Oregon; Stacy Niel, Deputy District Attorney from Deschutes County District Attorney's Office and Gil Levy, Executive Director of KIDS Center Children's Advocacy Center in Deschutes County in central Oregon. The Task Force continues to work to recruit a civil court judge and a person with experience working with homeless children and families.

Aligning CJA with Oregon's Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), Anti-Trafficking, Court Improvement Projects, and Child Fatality Review and Prevention

Oregon is currently working under its 2019 CFSP and is actively preparing the next CFSP which will be submitted by June 30, 2024. The CFSP contains the mission, vision, and action of Oregon's DHS CWP. "The Mission: Every child and family is empowered to live independent, safe and healthy lives. Vision: Every child and family has a safe and positive environment in which to live and develop. Action: Promote exceptional and equitable service by embracing opportunity for growth and providing innovation, resources, and support to our staff." The DHS Child Safety Manager continues to serve actively on both the CAMI Advisory Council and on the CJA Task Force, and is a valued contributor, sharing information about current efforts at child welfare. Topics discussed during the reporting period include response to problematic sexualized behavior, reports of third party abuse, and hair strand testing (see [CAMI Advisory Council minutes](#)). Additionally, during the reporting period, standing monthly meetings among the CAPTA, CBCAP and CJA administrators continued. The group exchanged updates on current efforts and projects funded by these sources and shared information about emerging issues in the field. These meetings promote understanding of the continuum of care and help identify areas of potential collaboration. The CJA administrator also continued to attend DHS CWP Community Connections update meetings.

Projects funded by CJA and implemented by OCAS including the Collaborative Child Abuse Response training, the Medical Academy, and OCFIT all align with the target outcomes of the [APSR](#), safety outcome 1 and the Vision for Transformation principle of Enhancing staff and infrastructure. Each of these trainings is intended to improve competency, capacity, and retention of providers, thus contributing to improvement timeliness of investigation and ultimately protecting children from abuse.

The Task Force administrator formally represents CJA on [Oregon's Statewide Child Death Review and Prevention Team](#), providing a robust connection between the teams to ensure efforts are coordinated. In addition to attending quarterly Statewide Child Death Review and Prevention Team meetings, the administrator continues to meet weekly with the team co-chairs: the Program Implementation and Policy Lead for the Child Welfare Child Fatality Review and Prevention Program and the Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program. The group continues to implement action items responsive to the findings from the needs assessment for fatality review and prevention. The statewide team continues its rigorous efforts to support county reviews and connect with the National Child Center for Fatality Review and Prevention despite lacking financial support for the administration of the program. Successes during this reporting period include launching peer support groups for key county fatality review team members and bringing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging training to the Statewide Child Death Review and Prevention Team. Recently, the CJA Task Force Attorney for Children representative joined the Statewide Child Death Review and Prevention Team, increasing the cross-representation of CJA and Fatality Review.

[The Trafficking Response and Intervention Program \(TRIP\)](#), as mentioned above, is housed at CVSSD. Information sharing continues to occur regularly in the normal course of work. This program continues to expand, adding staff, capacity, training and investigation resources. Included in the recent successes of the TRIP is the launch of the Roadmaps training which was partially funded with CJA dollars.

PRIOR YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT MAY 1, 2023 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024

Recommendations/Goals for the three-year period of 2021 through 2024.

Through the comprehensive three-year assessment process completed three years ago, Oregon identified the following recommendations/goals for the grant period:

- 1. Support experimental or demonstration projects addressing processes and procedures in investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of abuse cases to improve timeliness, equity, and fairness.**
- 2. Provide consistent and reliable support for established, effective trainings and resources for investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases.**
- 3. Support development of new trainings and new training platforms to improve child abuse reporting, investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases.**
- 4. Support projects to evaluate the efficacy of protocols, policies, procedures, or trainings related to investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse.**

These goals, further described in the 2021-2024 Three Year Assessment, are referenced by number below where they relate to the funded projects described in this Annual Performance Report.

Additional CJA required categories are referred to below as follows:

- A. The assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and the child's family;**
- B. The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; and**

C. The assessment and investigation of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems who are suspected victims of child abuse or neglect.

Prior Year Funded Projects May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024

Sub-grantee implementing the program

During the May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024 period, Oregon CJA continued its support to, and partnership with, Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS), a community based not for profit organization that is the Oregon Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance (NCA). The purpose of funding to OCAS is to carry out a variety of projects focused on enhancing multidisciplinary response to child abuse. Over the past year, OCAS has continued to provide training, technical assistance, advocacy and other support to Children’s Advocacy Centers and Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Teams throughout Oregon. OCAS continues to deliver a cohesive training and support plan including Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training (OCFIT) and Advanced Interviewing Trainings: Project Ability, Tools in Forensic Interviewing, and Trauma Informed Practices. Additionally, OCAS coordinates review and revision of the Oregon Interviewing Guidelines. Throughout this project period, OCAS has maintained good contact with the grant administrator, meeting a minimum of once every three weeks to discuss plans and progress and share information from the field. OCAS has also continued to provide timely quarterly written reports on funded projects and has participated in CJA quarterly meetings as requested to present the Task Force membership project highlights and information on emerging issues and practices in the field of child abuse intervention. OCAS is also an active member of the CAMI Advisory Council. In the furtherance of the recommendations of the Task Force, particularly recommendation 2 above, OCAS was awarded a two-year grant which began May 1, 2022 and extends through this grant reporting period. Previously, grant applications and awards were made annually. Based on prior understanding and grantee performance over the past two year period, it is planned that future grant awards will transition to a three year cycle. As the current grant to OCAS is for a two year period, the project description, goals, objectives, and projected outputs and outcomes described in this report and application apply to the two year period. Activities, outputs and outcomes reported are for the period of June 1, 2023 through March 30, 2024, the end of the most recent reporting period. The full proposal and reports for the applicable period are attached. Highlights from the project period are included below.

Activities, Outputs, and Outcome Highlights

Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training (OCFIT) Program, including delivery of OCFIT and other trainings, Oregon Interviewing Guidelines (OIGs) Review, OCFIT Curriculum Review and Training of Trainers (A, B, 2)

OCAS delivered Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training twice between May 2023 – April 2024 and trained 47 MDT professionals. OCFIT is based on the most up-to-date OIGs. Post-training examination scores for participants continued to confirm attendees’ substantial understanding of the material. Trainings continued to be offered alternately remotely and in person across the state. Trainees included child protective services workers, law enforcement, and children’s advocacy center based interviewers.

The OIGs are the basis for statewide forensic interviewer training and offer interviewers information and insights to help them conduct skilled, professional, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive interviews with children. OCAS, in partnership with the RCACs, is committed to reviewing the OIGs at least every other year to ensure they are current. Revisions to the OIGs are made on agreement with ODOJ when

necessary. During the reporting period, OCAS convened the statewide forensic interviewer trainers, reviewed the OIGs and OCFIT curriculum and provided training to the trainers. Additionally, OCAS established its forensic interviewer listserv and began the process of establishing a forensic interviewer community of practice.

Support for Medical Providers (A, C, 1, 2, 3) & Child Physical Abuse Training for Primary Care Clinicians (PCC) (Priorities A, B, 1, 2, 3, 4)

OCAS continues to deliver training and resources to medical providers to ensure every Designated Medical Professional in Oregon and medical providers working with CACs in Oregon have a community of practice that can be accessed for support, resources and partnership. The OCAS Medical Academy continues to provide monthly lectures, quarterly peer reviews, and topic-specific conferences to child abuse medical professionals by child abuse medical professionals. All lectures and conference materials are preserved in an online learning management system accessible to child abuse medical professionals. In this reporting period, Medical Academy provided 11 lectures with topics informed by child abuse medical professionals. Additionally, the first session in the fourth series of the Child Physical Abuse Training for Primary Care Clinicians took place on September 20, 2023 with the largest participation yet in this program - 39 of 50 registrants. CME credits were offered. Peer review continued to be provided to CAC Medical Professionals.

Collaborative Child Abuse Response (CCAR) FKA-Interviewing for non-Interviewers (A, B, 1, 3)

During this project period, OCAS hosted 2 CCAR sessions and trained 30 professionals including CAC staff, child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, educators and mental health professionals. The training emphasizes the benefits of the MDT model, stresses the advantages of conducting child forensic interviews at a local CAC by a trained forensic interviewer whenever possible, and covers the disclosure process, questioning of children, child development, trauma and memory.

Enhanced Program-Based and Comprehensive Evaluation (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 4)

In this reporting period, as part of, and with knowledge and skills gained through, the Kirkpatrick training received by OCAS staff, OCAS completed a longitudinal evaluation of the OCFIT program. The evaluation, attached, focused on understanding how OCFIT skills are applied in the field. The purpose of the longitudinal evaluation was to go beyond satisfaction and short term knowledge gain to understand the application of knowledge as well as skill, attitude, confidence and commitment following participation in OCFIT. The evaluation process included revision of the daily evaluations administered to program participants as well as professional focus groups. Results of the longitudinal evaluation were shared with the CJA Task Force and will be used to inform planning for future training and support of forensic interviewers.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Program and Strategies (DEI) (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 3, 4)

During the reporting period, OCAS launched a membership-based DEI committee. The primary purpose of the DEIB Committee is to develop and implement strategies, policies, and programs that foster a more inclusive and equitable work environment. This involves addressing issues related to underrepresentation, discrimination, bias, and inequity in the workplace, as well as promoting diversity, cultural

competency, and creating a sense of belonging for all employees. OCAS also hosted Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) training for CAC Directors including The Empathetic & Courageous Leader series by Tonya Wilson of the AFC Consulting Group. The purpose was to engage CAC Directors in building DEIB in their organizations, within their teams, and in their communities. Participants completed an evaluation indicating the sessions were helpful in supporting their role as leaders and will lend to making positive change in their CACs. OCAS also offered multi-session training co-sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on Cultural Humility & Engaging Indigenous Families. It was presented by Deanna Chancellor of the National Native Children’s Trauma Center (NNCTC), a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. 43 non-OCAS staff participants were in attendance (hybrid) and the evaluations that were returned indicated it was a significant success.

Prior Year Line Item Budget Expenditures

PROJECT	Budget	Expended
OCAS	\$200,000	\$200,000*
2024 NATIONAL GRANTEEES MEETING	\$4,000	\$0
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ESTIMATED AT 5% OF \$216,891 2021 ALLOCATION	\$10,806	
Cost for CJA Needs Assessment Translation Services (added per CB permission)	\$3,000	\$2,373.24
2023-2024 TOTAL	\$217,806	

*Expenses are current through April 2024. 1/2 of 2 year grant of \$400,000 to OCAS June 1, 2022 through April 30, 2024. As of reporting period ending 3/31/24, grantee has expended \$382,029.06 and is expected to fully expend the grant.

The application for proposed activities begins on the next page.

APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

In the coming reporting year CJA funding will continue to be used to support projects proposed and implemented by OCAS, in alignment with the priority of providing consistent and reliable support to established, effective training and resources. We are shifting the timing of our grant application process to better match the three year assessment and planning process. The current grant will be extended through September 30, 2024 and the new application process will be completed during this period. The application will be reviewed for alignment with the current CJA priorities. The proposed budget reflects one year of funding to OCAS, as well as funding set aside to support activities related to increasing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging on the CJA Task Force and in the activities of the Task Force.

Proposed Line Item Budget

PROJECT TO BE FUNDED	24-27 PRIORITY AREA(S)	Budget
DEI Activities	A-C, 1	\$50,000
OCAS	A-C, 1-4	\$200,000
2025 NATIONAL GRANTEEES MEETING		\$4,000
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ESTIMATED AT 10% \$214,839 2023 ALLOCATION	A-C 1-4	\$21,500
PROJECTED FFY 2023 TOTAL		\$275,500

Proposed Project Detail

Subgrantee Implementing the Program

OCAS strengthens Oregon’s child abuse intervention and assessment systems so that child victims of abuse receive quality, comprehensive services. OCAS is a systemic change nonprofit that works hand-in-hand with frontline child abuse interventionists to co-create solutions in practice, policy and training. OCAS membership includes 24 Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs), five of which are Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers (RCACs). OCAS has worked effectively with its membership CACs and RCACs, the Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA) and the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ) Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program (CAMI) for nearly a decade.

The 2024 – 2025 CJA proposal addresses the following federally identified priorities:

- A. Assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and family
- B. Investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation

C. Assessment and investigation of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems who are suspected victims of child abuse or neglect

The 2024 – 2025 CJA proposal addresses the following Oregon CJA Task Force priorities as identified in the “Oregon CJA Annual Report, Application and Three Year Assessment (2024 – 2027)”: The recommendations are labeled 1-4.

Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training Program (Priorities A, B, C, 2)

OCAS will continue to manage the Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training Program. OCFIT is the only child forensic interview training offered in Oregon that meets accreditation standards of the National Children’s Alliance for providing a standardized, competency-based training for professionals conducting child forensic interviews. OCFIT is the only child forensic interview training that is Oregon specific. OCFIT is a collaborative program of OCAS, RCACs, and ODOJ. Included in this program is an annual curriculum review, training of trainers, advanced Forensic Interviewer which currently includes specialized training in Project Ability, Use of Tools, and Trauma-Informed Interviewing and review and revision of the Oregon Interviewing Guidelines on which the OCFIT training is based.

Medical Academy (MA) (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 3)

Launched in 2021, the MA includes monthly lectures, quarterly peer reviews and topic-specific conferences. Members of CACs and RCACs steer the learning opportunities in the Medical Academy and all lectures and conference materials are captured in an online portal accessible 24/7 to child abuse providers.

Child Physical Abuse Training for Primary Care Clinicians (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 3)

The PCC was conceptualized and created between August 2021 and March 2022 and will be piloted in March, April and May of 2022. This four-session training, led by Board Certified Oregon-based child abuse pediatricians in our Network, will help primary care providers identify the signs of child physical abuse and conduct an exam and identify patient and familial history elements that are concerning for child physical abuse. Additionally, it will train to the roles and responsibilities associated with Oregon’s county-based Designated Medical Providers, Karly’s Law, the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline, and Child Protective Services.

Coordination Support for Trainings (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 3)

As OCAS continues to expand trainings, we anticipate that urgent training needs will arise during the duration of this grant. This grant allows for more capacity for OCAS to facilitate and coordinate needed trainings. Potential trainings and topics that OCAS may lend a hand in coordination may include a child abuse prosecution training, doll re-enactment training, disabilities for first responders, advanced medical Karly’s Law training, and many more.

Please see attachment for detail on deliverables, outputs, and outcomes.

Thank you for your time, expertise, and thoughtful consideration of this application.

STATE OF OREGON

Acting by and through its Department of Justice

By: 

Name: Shannon L. Siveall

Title: Director, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division

Date: June 6, 2024

