

Oregon Children's Justice Act Annual Report May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025

Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4096

Division Director: Shannon Sivell, Shannon.L.Sivell@doj.oregon.gov

EIN: 93-6001740 UEI: H5NWNFJSJJ94

CJA Grant Contact: Robin Reimer 503-507-4990, Robin.E.Reimer@doj.oregon.gov

Fiscal Agent: Collyn Arnold 503-378-5475, Collyn.Arnold@doj.oregon.gov

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, Dan Rayfield, 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 Crime Act grant, the Violence Against Women Act grant, and the Sexual Assault Services Program 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 Appellate Advocacy Program and provides statewide coordination and technical assistance in victims' rights and human trafficking. 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 which is 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, 2024 through April 30, 2025, 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. Additionally, the CJA Administrator met as needed with the Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair for planning purposes.

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. Task Force meetings regularly include topical presentations germane to the mission of the Task Force. During the reporting period, topical presentations included presentations by ODHS Staff Tammi Kane-Suleiman and Megan Brazo-Erickson on the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and Tina Gorin on

Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) as well as Kristin Khamnohack and Jennifer Holman on the Family Preservation Model and the evolving relationship between Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency. Shelly Smith, Executive Director of OCAS, also regularly presented information on progress of current grant funded projects and other topics of interest to the Task Force. Task Force meetings also included discussion of the three-year needs assessment. The purpose of these presentations and discussions is to increase awareness and understanding of current work in the field and best and emerging practices. These presentations launch conversation among the membership about potential priorities or activities for the Task Force.

Written materials are also shared with the Task Force by the Task Force membership. Included with this application are three examples of such materials: a summary of state legislation related to child abuse intervention, the 2024 CAC Annual Report, and the ODHS

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 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. 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 Chris Hinkle from the Oregon CASA Network and Defense Attorney Emily Cohen. The Task Force is working to recruit a person with experience working with children with disabilities, a civil court judge and a person with experience working with homeless children and families. Efforts to address these vacancies have included posting information on our CJA web page, soliciting recommendations from Task Force members at every meeting and asking Task Force members to personally connect any recommendations with the CJA coordinator, seeking recommendations from other community partners, conducting cold outreach to organizations through google searches and announcing openings in listservs. Recently, we received an expression of interest from someone with experience working with children with disabilities who found information about the Task Force on our web site. The CJA Administrator has reached out to them to set up a meeting and hope this leads to filling this position. The other membership of the Task Force remains actively engaged.

In addition to the CJA Task Force meetings, during the reporting period, standing monthly meetings among the CAPTA, CBCAP and CJA administrator 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, identify areas of potential collaboration, and help ensure alignment with CAPTA. The CJA administrator also continued to attend DHS CWP Community Connections update meetings.

The CJA 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, CJA Annual Report and Application June 18, 2025 p 3

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 continuation of peer support groups for key county fatality review team members and work on tools to help county fatality review teams obtain medical records necessary to complete reviews.

PRIOR YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT MAY 1, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025

Recommendations/Goals for the three-year period of 2024 through 2027.

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 to improve processes and procedures in investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of abuse cases to improve timeliness and fairness for all families.**
- 2. Provide consistent and reliable support for established, effective trainings and resources for investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases including improvement of communication with children and families.**
- 3. Support preservation of, and access to, existing trainings, resources, technical assistance and expertise to improve 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 2024-2027 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, 2024 – April 30, 2025

Sub-grantee implementing the program

During the May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 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 as well as coordinating review and revision of the Oregon Interviewing Guidelines. Throughout this project period, OCAS 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 October 1, 2024 and is scheduled to end September 30, 2026. 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 April 1, 2024 through March 30, 2025, the end of the most recent reporting period. This period includes the last two reporting periods under the 2022 to 2024 grant to OCAS (which was extended by three months to shift the grant to match the federal cycle) and the first two reporting periods of the current grant to OCAS. The full proposals 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 2024 – April 2025 and trained 66 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 regular lectures to child abuse medical professionals by child abuse medical professionals. Additionally, OCAS continues to offer an on-demand training series for child physical abuse training for primary care clinicians to ensure that every child in Oregon receives a fair response to child physical abuse. OCAS continues to maintain an active advisory committee of medical professionals to guide and support planning for learning opportunities.

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

During this project period, OCAS hosted 4 CCAR sessions and trained 74 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, OCAS staff continued to administer evaluations for every OCAS funded activity. OCAS staff revised their evaluation based on knowledge gained from completing Kirkpatrick training. They received a Blended Evaluation Plan of Excellence award for their evaluation work and were featured on the Kirkpatrick Podcast February 17, 2025. During the Podcast they discussed the evaluation of OCFIT and the resulting recommendations which included creating a forensic interviewer community of practice and making a statewide peer review available for forensic interviewers, both of which have been implemented by OCAS.

Prior Year Expenditures begin on the next page.

Prior Year Line-Item Budget Expenditures

PROJECT	Budget	Expended
OCAS	\$200,000	\$174,563.41
2025 National Grantees Meeting (scheduled for 3/31/25, conference cancelled 3/10/25, nonrefundable airfare included in expenditures)	\$4,000	\$0
Administrative Costs (estimated at 10% of \$214,839 2023 allocation)	\$21,500	\$3,563.39
2024-2025 TOTAL	\$225,500	\$178,126.80

* Expenditures are for reporting period not CVSSD grant award period or annual allocation. OCAS expenditures include April 2024 due to CVSSD reporting schedule.

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. As indicated in last year’s CJA report, we have shifted the timing of our subgrant grant to OCAS to match the federal cycle. Additionally, we are reallocating some funding to Children’s Advocacy Centers to help minimize the short-term impact of reduced funding from other federal sources. The proposed budget reflects one year of funding to OCAS, as well as funding set aside to support activities to broaden membership on the Task Force and in the activities of the Task Force.

Proposed Line-Item Budget

PROJECT TO BE FUNDED	24-27 PRIORITY	Budget	
PROJECT 1 OCAS	A-C, 1-4	\$150,000*	
PROJECT 2 CAC 2025	A-C, 2	\$120,000	
2025 NATIONAL GRANTEEES MEETING		\$4,000	
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ESTIMATED AT	\$214,839 2024 ALLOCATION	A-C, 1-4	\$21,300
PROJECTED FFY 2023 TOTAL		\$295,300	

*Total award for 2024-2027 grant period will be reduced from \$400,000 to \$350,000.

Project 1 OCAS Grant 2024-2027

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 Task Force (CJA) and the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ) Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program (CAMI) for nearly a decade.

The 2025 – 2026 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 2025 – 2026 CJA proposal addresses the following 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 was piloted in March, April and May of 2022. This training, led by Board Certified Oregon-based child abuse pediatricians in our Network, helps 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 trains 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. In year two of the grant, the training is shifting to an on-demand format.

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.

Project 2 CAC 2025

Proposed Project Detail

Subgrantee Implementing the Program

Oregon's Children's Advocacy Centers

Mini Grants to CACs


Decreases in federal funding, a decline in private and foundation giving and decreased patient revenues have resulted in financial hardship for Oregon's Children's Advocacy Centers. As a cornerstone of model child abuse intervention, it is critical to the state that these CACs continue to exist. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be offered to CACs for short term assistance with training, equipment, and administrative costs. Grant recipients will be asked to provide a description of how the funds were used to ensure consistency with the goals and purpose of CJA.

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 Sivell

Director, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division

Date: July 21, 2026