Oregon Children's Justice Act Annual Report May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

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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). CVSSD administers federal and state victim services grants including the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program (CAMI).

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, 2025 through April 30, 2026, 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: June 2, 2025; August 7, 2025; November 3, 2025; February 3, 2026 and April 8, 2026. 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. 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 Task Force membership and staff. Bylaws are provided to new members as part of onboarding. 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.

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, strong attendance and participation at meetings has continued. Meetings are virtual, allowing for easier participation from busy professionals including those in remote areas of the state. 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, and an adult former victim. We expect the last role to be filled soon. Efforts to address vacancies have included posting information on our CJA web page, soliciting recommendations from Task Force members at every meeting, asking Task Force members to personally connect any potential members with the CJA coordinator, seeking recommendations from other community partners, conducting cold outreach to organizations through google searches and announcing openings on CVSSD's listservs.

In addition to CJA Task Force meetings, during the reporting period, regular meetings among the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Administrator, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Administrator, and CJA Administrator continued. The group exchanges

updates on current efforts and projects funded by these sources and shares information about emerging issues in the field. These meetings promote understanding of the continuum of care, help identify areas of potential collaboration, and help ensure alignment with CAPTA. The CJA administrator also continued to attend DHS Child Welfare Partnership Community Connections update meetings, participated in Statewide Child Fatality Review and Prevention meetings, and began participation in the Sexual Assault Task Force Pediatric Subcommittee of the Medical Forensic Committee.

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, the administrator meets regularly 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 and complete meaningful reviews.

PRIOR YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT MAY 1, 2025 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026

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.

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 handing 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, 2025 – April 30, 2026

Sub-grantee implementing the program

During the May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026 period, Oregon CJA continued its support to, and partnership with OCAS, a community based not for profit organization that is the Oregon Chapter of the NCA. The purpose of providing funding to OCAS is to carry out a variety of projects focused on improving and 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. Throughout this project period, OCAS maintained frequent contact with the CJA 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 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, 2025 through March 30, 2026, the end of the most recent reporting period.

Activities, Outputs, and Outcome Highlights

OCAS delivered Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training twice between May 2025 – April 2026 and trained 51 MDT professionals. OCFIT is based on the most up-to-date Oregon Interviewing Guidelines. Post-training examination scores for participants continued to confirm attendees' substantial understanding of the material. Trainings continued to be offered in person across the state. Trainees included child protective services workers, law enforcement officers, and children's advocacy center-based interviewers. These trainings help ensure forensic interviews in Oregon are consistent with national best practices.

OCAS also continued 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 continued to provide regular lectures to child abuse medical professionals by child abuse medical professionals. Additionally, OCAS continued to offer an on-demand training series for child physical abuse training for primary care clinicians to ensure consistency in child abuse response across Oregon. OCAS maintains an active advisory committee of medical professionals to guide and support planning for learning opportunities.

During this reporting period, OCAS hosted 2 CCAR trainings and trained 27 professionals including CAC staff, child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, educators and mental health professionals in collaborative response to child abuse. 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.

During the reporting period, grants were allocated to CACs across the state to assist with training and technology needs. These grants were critical in helping CACs and MDT partners access much needed training at a time when teams are experiencing high turnover and dwindling resources across MDT partner agencies. These funds also assisted in purchasing computers, maintaining critical equipment such as CortexFlo machines-ensuring those larger investments continue to serve victims.

See appendix for detail on projects and deliverables to date.

Prior Year Line-Item Budget Expenditures May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

PROJECT	Budget	Expended
OCAS	$200,000	$110,717.86
CAC 2025	$120,000	$94,068.96
2026 National Grantees Meeting	$4,000	$0
Administrative Costs (estimated at 10% of $214,839 2023 allocation)	$21,300	$6,750.19
TOTAL	$225,300	$211,537.01

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. Funds will also be directed to launch a program implemented by SATF to increase availability of pediatric sexual assault nurses (SANES).

Proposed Line-Item Budget

PROJECT TO BE FUNDED	24-27 PRIORITY	Budget
PROJECT 1 OCAS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	A-C, 1-4	$200,000
PROJECT 2 SATF PEDIATRIC MEDICAL FORENSIC CARE PROJECT	A-C, 1	$160,000
2026 NATIONAL GRANTEES MEETING		$0
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ESTIMATED AT 15%	A-C, 1-4	$54,000
PROJECTED FFY 2026 TOTAL		$414,000

The 2026 – 2027 CJA proposal addresses the state and federal priorities listed infra:

Project 1 OCAS Training and Technical Assistance

Subgrantee Implementing the Program: OCAS

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 CACs, five of which are RCACs. OCAS has worked effectively with its membership CACs and RCACs, the CJA Task Force and the ODOJ CAMI Advisory Council for nearly a decade.

Proposed Project Detail:

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.

Core OCFIT trainings are offered at least three times per year to ensure consistent access for professionals statewide. In addition, advanced forensic interviewer training, curriculum review, and training of trainers are conducted every other year and as needed, in alignment with state standards. Advanced training currently includes specialized instruction in Project Ability, Use of Tools, and Trauma-Informed Interviewing, as well as ongoing 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 Medical Academy (MA) includes quarterly peer reviews conducted virtually and at least eight Medical Academy lectures annually delivered by state, regional, and national experts. Members of CACs and RCACs help guide and inform learning opportunities within the Medical Academy. All lectures and conference materials are recorded and made available through an online portal accessible 24/7 to child abuse providers. Medical professionals are eligible to receive continuing medical education (CME) credits for attending live sessions or viewing recorded lectures.

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, conduct an exam, and recognize patient and familial history elements that may be concerning for child physical abuse. Additionally, it provides training on the roles and responsibilities associated with Oregon's county-based Designated Medical Professionals, Karly's Law, the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline, and Child Protective Services.

All trainings are recorded and stored within OCAS's learning management system, allowing 24/7 access for primary care clinicians. In year two of the grant, the training is shifting to a fully on-demand format to further increase accessibility and reach.

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

As OCAS continues to expand trainings, we anticipate that urgent and emerging training needs will arise during the duration of this grant. This funding allows OCAS to increase capacity to facilitate and coordinate responsive, high-quality training opportunities. Potential trainings may include child abuse prosecution training and other priority topics identified in collaboration with partners.

In alignment with statewide efforts to strengthen a MDT approach, OCAS will prioritize the expansion of training opportunities for first responders and child abuse MDT partners, including law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, medical providers, mental health professionals, and victim advocates. These trainings will emphasize coordinated response, cross-disciplinary collaboration, trauma-informed practice, and shared responsibility for child and family outcomes, consistent with national best practices and accreditation standards.

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Training and Learning Platform Development (Priorities A, B, C, 1, 2, 3)

OCAS will develop and expand a comprehensive, MDT-focused training portfolio to strengthen coordinated child abuse response across Oregon. Building on statewide efforts to modernize Collaborative Child Abuse Response (CCAR) training, OCAS will create an expanded menu of training opportunities that reflect national best practices and the National Children's Alliance (NCA) accreditation standards.

These trainings will move beyond single-discipline approaches and instead emphasize integrated, cross-disciplinary learning that elevates the roles and shared responsibilities of all MDT partners, including law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, medical providers, mental health professionals, victim advocates, and Children's Advocacy Centers. Training topics will include foundational MDT orientation, discipline-specific roles within the broader response, trauma-informed and culturally responsive practice, case coordination and decision-making, and effective communication and information sharing.

To ensure accessibility, consistency, and sustainability, OCAS will implement a blended learning model that includes both live, facilitated trainings and professionally developed asynchronous modules. Selected trainings will be recorded and housed on OCAS's Learning Management System (LMS), providing 24/7 access for MDT partners statewide. This platform will support onboarding of new professionals, ongoing professional development, and reinforcement of best practices across jurisdictions, including rural and under-resourced communities.

Funding through this grant will support the development of high-quality training content, including subject matter expertise, instructional design aligned with adult learning principles, video production, and LMS hosting and maintenance. This investment will allow OCAS to build a scalable, accessible training infrastructure that promotes consistency, strengthens MDT effectiveness, and improves outcomes for children and families impacted by abuse.

<u>Project 2 SATF Pediatric Medical Forensic Response</u>

Subgrantee Implementing the Program: SATF (Priorities A, B, C, 1)

The Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) is a private, non-profit organization that has facilitated cross-discipline collaboration and victim centered approaches to sexual assault including medical forensic care, victim advocacy and criminal prosecution for over 25 years.

Proposed Project Detail:
The goal of this project is to address the existing gap in Oregon's pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner (PSANE) response, particularly in rural and under-resourced areas. SATF will build a set of competencies and certification standards for OREGON PSANEs serving victims ages 0-14. SATF will provide training, support and technical assistance. The goal of the project is to improve response in child sexual abuse by expanding the workforce of PSANEs available to respond to child victims and survivors of sexual abuse by providing training, education, and workforce support.

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

Submitted by: STATE OF OREGON
Acting by and through its Department of Justice

Name: Shannon Sivell
Title: Director, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division
Date: May 26, 2026