

**Department New Request Form
Fiscal Year 2023**

Program	Administration	Title of New Request:	Rank: 3
Department	Attorney	Missoula County Community Justice Dept	
Request Category	Baseline Adjustment		
Request Rating	Maintain Level of Service		
Department Goal	Provide victim advocacy services for victims of crime		

1. How will request assist in achieving Department Goal and benefit the customer?

Salary and fringe increase for Missoula County Community Justice Dept (MCCJD).

2. What specifically is needed to achieve this goal?

Continuation of advocacy and prevention program services for the City of Missoula.

3. Cost Impact of New Program:

Account #	Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Requested One-Time	Requested Ongoing	FY 2023 Unfunded	FY 2023 Funded	Proposed FY 2024 Ongoing
Ongoing Expenses								
1000.270.410370.700	Salary & Fringe	1	11212		11,212	-	11,212	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
Expense Sub-Total				-	11,212	-	11,212	-
One-time Expenses								
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	
					-	-	-	

Revenue Offset:

Account #	Revenue Description	Proposed Onetime Revenue	Proposed Ongoing Revenue
1000	T Tax Funded		11,212
Revenue Sub-Total		-	11,212

4. What sort of data will be used to report results and outcomes of request?

MCCJD submits semi-annual service reports to the City of Missoula.

Requested/Proposed Funding Source

	One-time	Ongoing
Tax or Assessment	-	11,212
Non-tax	-	-
Fund Balance	-	-
Total	-	11,212

MISSOULA COUNTY COMMUNITY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT - FY 2023 CITY BUDGET REQUEST

Employee Name (Last, First)	Position Title	FTE	Hourly Rate (FY23)	Total Hours	Salary	Fringe	TOTAL
Ritsema, Erica	Prevention Specialist II	1	\$23.39	2080	\$48,651	\$18,813	\$67,465
Tipps, Lisa	Crime Victim Advocate I	1	\$22.04	2080	\$45,842	\$17,727	\$63,569
Nierson, Annelise	Crime Victim Advocate II	1	\$22.31	2080	\$46,401	\$17,943	\$64,344

TOTAL \$195,377

FY23 Fringe Rate	38.67%
Cost of living increase:	2.50%

In FY 2020 Missoula County merged two existing departments, Relationship Violence Services and the Criminal Justice Services Division, to create a new department called Missoula County Community Justice Department.

The **Community Justice Department** fosters community wellbeing and builds restorative paths towards equity for justice-involved citizens (both victims of crimes and defendants) to ensure a safe, healthy, and prosperous environment for all people who live, work, and play here. The department advocates for a fair and just community by working collaboratively to continually improve the justice system for all. The Community Justice Department is comprised of 18 staff members in three divisions that serve both the City of Missoula and Missoula County—Crime Victim Advocates, Justice Initiatives, and Administration. We work to increase public safety, improve outcomes for those involved with the justice system, increase problem solving and collaboration across our crisis systems of care, reduce economic costs of crime to Missoula community. The Community Justice Department will:

- EMBED justice system services and programs in trauma-informed best practices
- BUILD partnerships and networks to increase efficiency and effectiveness of programs
- STRENGTHEN Missoula County’s network of services
- INCREASE resources for programs and initiatives though funding, leveraging, and technical assistance

CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE DIVISION DETAIL:

The Crime Victim Advocate Division is comprised of eight advocates and a manager which includes: a CVA Program Manager (who is an LCSW and provides administrative and clinical supervision to the advocate team), 4 civil advocates who provide walk-in and crisis call services and assist clients in applying for orders of protection, and 4 criminal case-based advocates. The City of Missoula supports 2 FTE Crime Victim Advocates. The County, American Rescue Plan funding, and federal grant funds support the remaining positions.

THE CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE DIVISION provides centralized, direct services to victims of assaultive crimes with a focus on sexual and relationship violence through criminal and civil justice system advocacy and is composed of two specialty areas:

1) CIVIL ADVOCACY—Civil Victim Advocates serve victims of relationship and sexual violence regardless of whether the victim is involved with the criminal justice system. Advocates provide crisis intervention, assistance with obtaining Orders of Protection; assistance in obtaining emergency services including shelter, transportation, and medical treatment; and provide personal advocacy including working with landlords, employers, schools, child protective services, etc.

2) CRIMINAL ADVOCACY—Criminal Advocates serve victims of personal injury crimes, working primarily with victims of misdemeanor and felony assault, partner/family member assault, sexual assault, and sexual intercourse without consent cases within the criminal justice system. Criminal Victim Advocates initiate contact with all victims of sexual and domestic violence when an arrest is made. Advocates provide crisis intervention; victim rights information; support and accompaniment for victims during investigations, legal proceedings, and hearings; and criminal legal advocacy and victim-witness support as cases are prosecuted in coordination with the City and County Attorneys' Offices and law enforcement.

To date in FY21 (7/1/21 – 5/1/22) the Crime Victim Advocate Program has served clients in just over 1,300 new cases and provided follow up services to over 1,102 of these clients. **Sixty-four percent of clients served had city-based cases.** The Crime Victim Advocate Program serves clients in partnership with the City Attorney's Office, the County Attorney's Office, the Missoula Police Department, the Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and in Municipal, Justice, and District Court. Advocates are cross jurisdictional, serve clients in both criminal and civil matters, and follow clients through the entire life of their case to provide wrap-around services to victims of relationship and sexual violence. Victims of these crimes are able to work with an integrated team of advocates who partner with criminal justice agencies to access all of the services they need in one place. This structure ensures high-quality victim-centered services, improves communication in relationship and sexual violence cases between Missoula's criminal justice departments, and eliminates the duplication of services within the criminal justice system. The CVA Division evaluates services through a client feedback survey. Returned surveys show: 96% of clients felt safe in the CVA office; 96% report receiving helpful information; 97% felt that the advocate listened to them; 97% were satisfied with CVA services; 93% would return to the CVA office; and, 93% would recommend CVA services to another person. One client commented, "I couldn't have made it through my ordeal without your help."

PREVENTION DIVISION:

The **PREVENTION DIVISION's** mission is to prevent domestic and sexual violence in the City of Missoula using a variety of evidence-based strategies. Since the inception of the city's prevention position, staff have provided Over 800 healthy relationships and consent education workshops in city schools, for over 7,000 students in the City of Missoula to date. Additionally, staff frequently collaborate with other service providers in coalitions such as the Make Your Move! Advisory Council, Graduation Matters Missoula, the University Council on Student Assault, and the Missoula Healthy Sexuality Network. In FY21 the Prevention Specialist will continue to serve Missoula's youth through school-based educational programming, expand prevention education to other service providers such as Mountain Home, provide anti-harassment training and education to businesses and organizations, and collaborate with other Health Promotions coordinators to strengthen prevention across the individual's lifespan.

BRIEF HISTORY: Intimate partner violence and sexual assault weren't always seen as public health issues. As a result, prevention of these crimes sprung out of the battered women's movement, often being housed with victim advocacy services. As such, Relationship Violence Services (now the Community Justice Department) has been providing grant-funded prevention services since 2009. In 2013 City Council decided to hard fund a portion of Relationship Violence Services' prevention services in response to the Department of Justice investigation of Missoula's handling of sexual assault. In doing so, Missoula became the first municipality in the state to support primary prevention of relationship violence through general fund dollars, ensuring on-going support for long-term change. However, prevention and healthy relationship education is most effective using public health strategies. In FY 2021 Community Justice Department and the Health Department teamed up to further strengthen Dating and Sexual Violence Prevention services in Missoula.

WHY THE CHANGE: Over the past decade the field of dating and sexual violence prevention has evolved, moving from awareness and educational campaigns towards a true public health primary prevention model. These are exciting changes that have strengthened prevention efforts, increasing effectiveness, and linking the work to other prevention efforts that exist within our community. (As an example, the risk and protective factors for youth experiencing or perpetrating dating violence are nearly identical to the risk and protective factors for substance use disorder and suicidality.) The Health Promotions Division of the Health Department leads all other primary prevention efforts for the City and County. Further, the new Community Justice Department's mission has also evolved to be justice system focused, rather than public health focused. Due to these reasons, CJD and the Health Department are partnering to transfer dating and sexual violence prevention efforts to the Health Department to provide the program with public health expertise and improve coordination with other prevention programming, while ensuring the program remains connected to its roots in the field of victim advocacy services.

WHAT THE CHANGE MEANS FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES: The Community Justice Department will maintain the contract with the City of Missoula to deliver crime victim advocacy and dating and sexual violence prevention services. However, staff assigned to these efforts will be assigned to both CJD and the Health Department in FY23.