

2019 VOCA TRAINING

Survivor Driven Housing

Utah Office for Victims of Crime



Overview of Pilot Program

- UOVC started a pilot program July 1 to run through June 30
 - 11 agencies were funded and each agency was eligible for up to \$200,000
- Agencies were required to use the Housing First model and incorporate the 6 core components into their program

- 1) Survivor Driven
- 2) Trauma Informed
- 3) Mobile Advocacy
- 4) Low Barrier
- 5) Flexible Financial Assistance
- 6) Community Engagement

What was spent

- \$2.2 million was allocated for the project
- \$1.3 is the amount projected to be spent
- 53% of the money was used for rental assistance
- 32% was used for salary/fringe
- 7% “other”, such as fees, car repairs, etc.
- 3% was used for utilities
- 3% hotel stays
- 2% was used for travel/equipment/supplies
- On average, each agency is projected to spend \$117,136/one year

Things we have learned

- Housing is a complex issue
- Use this program as a band aid to connect to other programs
- Housing first does not mean you can not say no
- Hiring Housing Coordinator and having an outline of policies, etc. is a good idea before helping victims and mobile advocate
- Agency needs to establish how money is dispersed
- Stay away from assessments to determine eligibility
- Coordination is key

Direction for UOVC Housing

- Ideally, UOVC 's vision for housing is to have one agency per county that would be the housing resource for all victims of crime within that county. Similar to what Utah county has done through the Center for Women and Children in Crisis.

Highlight program

- Holly Johnson
- Housing Program: Center for Women in Children in Crisis in Utah County

- To move forward we are offering two options for the housing grant. Please note both options:
 - 1) Will require using the housing first model
 - 2) Will require incorporating the six components
 - 3) Agency can not use standardize assessments and tools to determine eligibility
 - 4) Victims can not be refused housing services if they are not willing to participate in supportive services
 - 5) Regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation victims of crime cannot be a discriminated to receive housing assistance.
 - 6) Sobriety can not be a requirement for receiving services

Option 1

Option One: Agencies will be awarded up to \$150,000/year/agency.

With this option, agencies are not required to offer housing services to victims of all crime categories, but may offer housing services to those victim crime categories that only fall within the perimeters of their agency.

Option 2

- Each agency will receive up to \$250,000/year/agency. With this option, agencies will need to collaborate with other agencies and to be a housing resource to other agencies (community and system based)within their county. Support letters submitted should reflect this collaboration and outline the protocol of how the collaboration will function. If an agency chooses this option they will be required to offer housing services to victims of all VOCA crime categories.
- Agencies whose mission is to serve a specific population (i.e. people with disabilities, LGBTQ community) will be eligible to choose option 2 if they serve all crime categories within the specific population they serve.

Who is eligible to receive services?

Crime victim or victim of crime means a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.

- Being a victim of a VOCA eligible crime
- Financial assistance is tied to their victimization
- Individuals who receive assistance under this grant need services due the victimization of a crime that occurred within the previous 12 month period

What to consider if you want housing grant.

- Access to money: this is low barrier program so as an agency you need to decide how your housing personnel will have access to money.
- Need to have protocol in place on how to monitor and track money
- In protocols you should decide how to deal with potential issues of fraud
- If you want to have two staff (Housing Coordinator and Mobile advocate) would recommend hiring a Housing Coordinator and establishing protocols, policies, forms, etc. before you hire mobile advocate and before you start helping victims
- There needs to be mobile component
- Remember: this is low barrier to victims (not your agency or staff), being low barrier means a lot of coordination, organization and planning on your agency's part to make services as easy as possible for victims.

Things to Know

- Will follow typical VOCA grant-you will need program plan, goals and objectives, support letters and budget
- 25% match is required
- Must follow Housing First Model
- Must incorporate six core components
- Can not use a standardize tool or measurement to determine eligibility
- Grant will be awarded for VOCA allowable expenses only
- Emergency funds are not allowed on this grant
- Match documentation must be submitted with each billing
- Names of personnel, not just positions

- Two year grant-first year will be filled out separately then second year
- Allow to put in TBD for trainings as place holder, however, the training must be approved before any money is spent.
- Must fill out an intent to submit due by April 4

Core Components

- 1) Survivor Driven
- 2) Trauma Informed
- 3) Mobile Advocacy
- 4) Low Barrier-can not use standardize assessment or tools to determine eligibility
- 5) Flexible Financial Assistance-in other category, rental assistance must be separate. No emergency funds for this grant.
- 6) Community Engagement

ALLOWABLE / NON-ALLOWABLE

Allowable

- Travel for staff
- Training
- Rental Assistance
- Utilities for survivors
- Moving Expenses for survivors
- Childcare (must be with a licensed daycare provider)
- Hotel/Motel Vouchers
- Salary/benefits for direct service staff of the project

Non-Allowable

- Security Deposits
- Medical costs
- Past Debt
- Compensation to Victims
- No mortgage payments or anything doing with mortgage
- Personnel: Prevention and Education, Outreach, and clinical
- Fundraising
- Capital expenses

Security Deposits

We are allowing those agencies who have participated in the pilot program to apply for security deposits in their housing grant. Agencies who choose to apply for this will need to attach a policy outlining:

- 1) How security deposits will be distributed
- 2) How they will be collected
- 3) How they will be documented, specifically program income

- For Example: the dollar amounts that are in each box are just examples.

Other			
<i>Item and Description</i>	<i>Quantity (put 1)</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>	<i>Other Cost</i>
Rental Assistance for Survivors	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
Direct Aid	1	\$10,000	\$10,000



BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

- Example:
 - Position #1: Housing Coordinator coordinates and oversees the implementation of the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project. This includes: landlord outreach and engagement, community engagement and collaboration with housing stakeholders, coordinating financial assistance and agreements with partners, and providing mobile advocacy to crime victims.
 - The Housing Coordinator will have coordination duties with some direct service and mobile advocacy. The Coordinator will also train and assist other advocates to provide mobile advocacy to crime victims. The person in this position works a total of 40 hours per week for the agency so this request is for 95% of his/her 40-hour position. This is a new position

Program Model

- This approach requires flexibility and low-barrier services. As we know, each survivor has their own unique needs and services must allow flexibility to fit individual survivor's needs.
- This approach should offer survivors “What can I do for you?” rather than “Here is what we offer.” Survivors may need long -term housing at many points in their journeys.

Sample Goals & Objectives from Housing for Crime Victims Special Project

- Goal: Assist crime victims in meeting their long-term housing needs
 - Objectives:
 - ____ crime victims served by the housing program will receive rental assistance in the ____grant period.
 - ____of crime victims, will have accessed long-term housing (apartment or home in the community, housing vouchers, affordable housing, tribal housing, permanent supportive housing, etc.) by the end of the ____grant period.
 - ____crime victims will be provided with VOCA-eligible financial assistance (that may include utility support, transportation or housing costs, eligible childcare or other emergency assistance) to support their housing stability and safety during the ____grant period.

Questions?



Thank you!

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