# **Payson City Victim Services**

# **Governing Board Report**

May 29, 2024

The Payson City Victim Services Program is partially funded by a federal grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA is a law passed in 1984 establishing the Crime Victims’ Fund by President Ronald Reagan. VOCA is one of the largest sources for federal funding for victim needs from court fees and fines. Over the last few years, VOCA funds have decreased significantly due to legislative and federal judicial outcome changes. That has resulted in cuts upwards of 81% for the critical Victim Assistance funding on which most victim services rely. The Utah Office of Victims of Crime (UOVC) is the pass-through agency for the state that distributes the funds to qualifying agencies. I have attached a letter from the UOVC regarding anticipated future VOCA funding cuts for the next grant cycle. VOCA requires two semi-annual reports to the agencies governing body to create a culture of accountability and investment of financial support for victim services programs. This is the second report for year one of our current two-year grant.

Our Payson City Victim Services program provides comprehensive Victim Services from crisis response with our police department to victim assistance through prosecution and conviction in our justice court. I have attached a copy of our newly revised Victim Services brochure that includes an overview of Victims’ Rights as well as the criminal justice process. The greatest successes of our program come from the victims that are able to make positive changes and recover from both physical and emotional injuries. Many are still in that recovery process, and it is a humbling experience to witness their courage and conviction.

The attached reports are statistics and grant performance measures for January to March 2024 (3rd quarter of Year 1 of the grant). Performance measures are pro-rated based on the VOCA portion of funding and our city cash match (88%). Our program is on target to meet or exceed program goals even with the new pro-ration requirements.

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| Category | Victims |  | |  |
|  |  |  | |  |
| Total Individuals | 80 |  | |  |
| Adult Physical Assaults | 6 |  | |  |
| Adult Sexual Assaults | 1 |  | |  |
| Child Physical Abuse or Neglect | 5 |  | |  |
| Child Sexual Abuse/Assault | 2 |  | |  |
| Domestic Violence | 56 |  | |  |
| Kidnapping (custodial) | 6 |  | |  |
| Stalking/Harassment | 5 |  | |  |
| Survivors of Homicide | 3 |  | |  |
| Violation of Protective Orders | 7 |  | |  |
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| Examples of Direct Services | Victims |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Criminal Advocacy/Accompaniment | 93 |  |  |
| Notification of Criminal Justice Events | 168 |  |  |
| Interpreter Services | 29 |  |  |
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