

FY 20-21 KU Project Narrative

1. Problem Statement – Maximum 3 Pages

a. Define and describe the demographics of your service area.

Los Angeles population

The City of Los Angeles (LA) covers 469 square miles¹ within LA County, the second-largest urban region in the US. LA has a diverse population of nearly 3.8 million made up of 48.5% Latino, 28.7% Caucasian, 11.1% Asian, 9.2% Black, and 2.5% Native American, Pacific Islander, or Other.² Approximately 40% of LA residents speak only English, while 59.81% speak other languages including Spanish, which is spoken by 42.72% of the population. Between 2012 and 2016, nearly 3,000,000 (or 7%) of LA's population identified as having a disability or other access or functional need (DAFN).³ LA's poverty rate is 5.56% among those that work full-time, 22.21% among those that work part-time, and 33.32% among those that do not work. Individuals with a disability hindering employment find themselves in particular difficulty. In 2019, 36,165 people are homeless in LA. Of those, 55% reported having a mental, developmental, or physical disability, and 39% identified as a victim of domestic violence (DV).

b. Describe victim population your agency serves, including crime type(s) and demographics.

In 2019, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) recorded 15,288 DV cases. Last year, LA's Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program served a total of 6,135 victims of DV and Sexual Assault (SA). Victim demographics were: 3,273 Hispanic/Latino, 913 Black/African American, 889 White, 713 Other, 179 Asian, 28 API, and 8 Native American/Alaskan Native.

¹ ["2010 Census U.S. Gazetteer Files – Places – California". United States Census Bureau](#)

² US Census - American Community Survey

³ For the purposes of this proposal, "disability" is defined using the US Census Bureau definition of "a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition or conditions that make it difficult for a person to do functional or participatory activities such as seeing, hearing, walking, climbing stairs, learning, remembering, concentrating, dressing bathing, going outside the home, or working at a job."

c. Describe the barriers individuals with disabilities face when accessing victim services.

DAFN individuals are twice as likely to experience DV and other gender-based violence, and are more likely to suffer longer and more severe injuries.⁴ As 7% of the City's population identifies as DAFN, it is likely that over 1,100 of the DV victims recorded in LA last year were individuals with disabilities. The complexity of these crimes, coupled with lack of appropriate first responder training and a lack of victim services creates a significant barrier to addressing the needs of the DAFN population. Further, LA's vast geography and lack of a robust accessible public transportation presents particular barriers for DAFN individuals in accessing services.

d. Describe your agency's current efforts to serve individuals with disabilities, including those with access and functional needs, in accessing services.

In 2015, LA expanded its DART and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) programs Citywide, doubling the resources previously available to victims. In 2016, with the support of an Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) grant, LA created a complementary LA Violence Against Women with Disabilities Program to (1) enhance coordination with DART and SART; (2) ensure inclusive and accessible response and services for DAFN victims; and (3) establish new partnerships with service providers. In 2018, to further expand support for DV and SA victims, LA opened the Central Bureau Family Justice Center (FJC). The FJC co-locates stakeholders (medical and forensic services, mental health, emergency shelter placement assistance, legal services) with LAPD on the LA County USC Medical Center to serve victims of aggravated DV, SA, and non-relative child abuse in LA's Central Bureau. All FJC partners have received specialized trauma informed care training, which included working with DAFN victims of DV and SA, and have access to expert consultants from the LA Violence Against Women

⁴ S. Ortoleva, H. Lewis. Violence Against Women with Disabilities Working Group. "A Report on Violence Against Women With Disabilities."

with Disabilities Program. Through the FY 18-19 Increased Access to Services (KU) Program this center was able to open up a part time restraining order clinic that operates 3 days a week and a transportation program to support DAFN victims in accessing services in and out of the FJC.

e. Clearly identify the specific problem(s) to be addressed through this proposed project.

This project seeks to increase access services to DAFN victims of DV and SA, via expansion of services available at the FJC. The problems addressed are:

1 - Difficulty Navigating Court System for Restraining Orders (RO): Access to RO's is critical in victim safety. In 2015, the LA Superior Courthouse saw over 21,492 DV filings in what can be an overwhelming and intimidating environment, with long wait times in tight physical quarters fostering additional barriers for DAFN victims trying to access RO applications.

2 - Lack of Accessible Transportation: Many DAFN victims seeking RO's are faced with having to utilize the inadequate public transit system, or identify alternate transportation arrangements. Sponsored transportation for DAFN individuals exists but is limited, and individuals that do qualify must schedule trips 48 hours in advance, often preventing emergency appointments.

3 - Difficulty Accessing Uniform Services Citywide: DAFN victims of DV and SA are faced with difficulty accessing services that may be housed across disparate systems and geographically disparate locations which can result in additional trauma. LA's geographical makeup, dense population, and congestion puts an immense burden on people with disabilities to be able to navigate the emotionally and physically challenging landscape of DV services.

Plan – Maximum 4 Pages

a. Identify and describe the goal of the proposed project.

This project will expand services available to DAFN victims of DV and SA at LA's Central FJC using the following solutions to each of the three problems identified above:

1 - Increased RO Access for Victims: Expand services at the Central FJC to include DAFN accessible support for RO filing onsite 5 days a week, by funding LA County Bar Association Paralegal staff at the FJC with the goal of assisting at least 850 victims file RO's onsite.

2 - Expanded Accessible Transit Options for DAFN Victims: Ensure DAFN victims can access geographically disparate services by providing transportation assistance to service locations.

3 - Improved Citywide Access via Co-Location of Robust Services: Ensure that the Central FJC offers a variety of accessible and appropriate services to DAFN victims of DV and SA in a safe, non-intimidating environment. This will include a variety of co-located services including full service RO and transportation assistance. By providing RO filing and transportation, we will be able to offer expanded resources to 700 additional victims.

b. Describe the plan for solving the problem(s) identified in the Problem Statement.

People with disabilities were 90% more likely to experience abuse on multiple occasions, with 57% of victims experiencing abuse on more than 20 occasions and 46% of victims reporting abuse that was "too frequent to count."⁵ Under the proposed program, DAFN victims who often "fall through the cracks" of violence intervention and prevention services networks, will receive the specialized services and support they need.

⁵ Laura Platt et al (2017) "The Role of Gender in Violence Experienced by Adults With intimate Developmental Disabilities"

1 - Difficulty Navigating Court System for Restraining Orders (RO): If awarded, the FJC will expand current legal assistance with RO's from 3 to 5 days a week. Victims will receive on-site restraining order filing as an alternative to navigating the process at the LA Superior Courthouse. The RO decision would be faxed to the victims the same day at the FJC. Victims will be paired with an advocate that will be available to help prepare them for and accompany them to court, ensuring wrap-around services.

2 - Lack of Accessible Transportation: As stated above, LA's expansive geography can result in a significant physical and mental barrier for DAFN individuals attempting to access services. By making accessible transportation available for DAFN victims we can increase their safety and support their recovery in the aftermath of a crisis.

3 - Improved Citywide Access via Co-Location of Robust Services: This grant will improve the overall quality of support available to DAFN victims of DV and SA by increasing access to co-located services at the Central FJC. All FJC partners have access to individual interview rooms decorated to be comfortable and culturally appropriate. Co-location of services is a more cohesive way for victims to engage with the many systems necessary to support them in their recovery. If awarded, this grant program will significantly enhance services available to DAFN victims at the Central FJC. By adding full time RO support and transportation services, the FJC will be able to complete a critical component of service provision. Further, victims will have the option of being connected to a case manager that can support court accompaniment and recovery services in one easy-to-access location.

c. Identify and describe the specific objectives.

The first objective is to provide accessible, comprehensive, and appropriate wraparound services for DAFN individuals. LA will utilize this grant to enhance the services located at the Central

FJC by increasing onsite restraining order filing to the existing services. The FJC seeks to increase victim access to criminal justice intervention by changing the experience associated with seeking help. All personnel at the FJC are specially trained and understand the complex dynamics of DV and SA, both within the DAFN community and as it pertains to other types of victims. This holistic approach to service provision has shown an increase in the filing rates of crimes committed against this population, holding more perpetrators accountable and protecting future victims.

The second objective is to increase access to services for DAFN individuals by providing door-to-door transportation to services. Public transportation in LA is not adequately set up to meet the needs of people with disabilities and survivors have to spend several hours taking inefficient routes in order to access supportive services. Through the work of the LA Violence Against Women with Disabilities Program, we have been able to identify gaps in service and a lack of efficient transportation creates an immense barrier to service accessibility. By providing victims with transportation services survivors are more likely to utilize all of the resources available to them.

d. Describe the timeline for accomplishing the objectives.

- The Family Justice Center will implement legal support immediately.

This project is currently providing services to victims 3 days a week through the FY 18-19 Increased Access to Services (KU) Program. Those services will continue if we are awarded the FY 20-21 KU grant. Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) will transition the current part-time staff to full-time within the first pay period of accepting the award.

- Transportation resources will be effective immediately.

The City has an existing relationship with transportation agencies and will leverage funds to provide access specific transportation services to victims.

e. Describe how the proposed plan will improve access to services for DAFN individuals in accessing services during and beyond the grant performance period.

The proposed plan has a goal of providing DAFN-appropriate support to victims of DV and SA with RO filing, transportation assistance, and access to co-located services. By co-locating legal support to fill out and file RO's, DAFN individuals who are victims of DV and SA will be able to access a complete suite of services at the Central FJC. During the performance period, LA will seek additional resources via other grants and the City budgetary process to secure long-term funding for the RO and transportation support that has been established via this program. This will ensure continuation of services upon the conclusion of the grant.

f. Describe the staffing needed to implement the plan.

- Full-Time Paralegal for Restraining Order filings
- Part-Time Staff Attorney to oversee paralegal
- Part-Time LACBA Program Director to oversee program
- 2 Part-Time LA Mayor's Office Program Managers to oversee program and fiscal implementation
- Department on Disabilities (DOD) staff for Communication Access Real time Translation (CART) and Sign Language Interpreter (SLI) technical assistance.

3. Capabilities – Maximum 4 Pages

1. Describe your agency's capability to implement the proposed plan.

In 2015, LA expanded the DART and SART programs to all 21 LAPD Areas displaying LA's commitment to serving victims of DV & SA. To improve the level of service provided to victims, the City opened the Central FJC in a trauma informed space that houses multidisciplinary community stakeholders. If awarded, the City would increase the services currently provided to people with disabilities by expanding onsite RO filing and transportation support to existing FJC programming thereby ensuring full time access to comprehensive services in a convenient location.

All participating service providers have placed full-time case managers at the FJC who have received mandatory 40 hour DV training and/or 65 hour SA trainings and can assist victims with wrap-around services. In addition to these trainings, the advocates have been trained on support of DAFN victims, and navigation of the unique challenges and benefits of operating in a co-located service model.

In 2018 with the support of the FY 18-19 Increased Access to Services (KU) Program the City of Los Angeles in collaboration with LACBA launched the pilot RO clinic 3 days a week at the FJC. Through this program we have been able to assist over 560 victims with transportation and RO filing. This pilot program has been an incredible asset to the community by ensuring that victims have access to often lifesaving restraining orders. The peace of mind that victims experience when having someone assist them through the daunting task of navigating the court system has been invaluable.

In addition to these services these victims also have access to the wide range of service provided at the FJC through the onsite partner agencies that include: Casa de la Familia (CDLF); East LA Women's Center (ELAWC); Violence Intervention Project (VIP); LA City Attorney's Office; LA Violence Against Women with Disabilities Program; Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); Los Angeles Department on Disability (DOD); Peace Over Violence (POV); and Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC). All of these agencies have a long history of working with DV and SA survivors in the community.

By expanding this program to 5 days a week we will be able to ensure that any victim wanting an RO in the Central bureau has a safe, trauma informed location to seek it at. Victims will no longer be left alone to access an intimidating court system. This program will allow for them to have an advocate supporting them every step of the way.

b. Describe your agency's capability to manage grant programs.

The LA Mayor's Office of Public Safety (MOPS) is the lead applicant for this grant.

MOPS is responsible for securing and administering the City's state and federal public safety and criminal justice grants, and has a strong relationship with the LAPD, DOD, and countless non-profit service providers.

The MOPS grants team currently manages over \$40 million in public safety grants, including funding from the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women for the City's DART, SART, and Elder Abuse programs, as well as the Mayor's Stop Abuse From Existing (SAFE) initiative, which support the areas of DV and SA. Additionally, MOPS was responsible for the implementation of the City-wide expansion of the DART and SART programs.

The staff of MOPS is also responsible for the coordination of a City-wide effort to bring the public safety and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans of the City into

*FY 20-21 Increased Access to Services (KU) Program
City of Los Angeles - Mayor's Office of Public Safety*

compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This program ensures that all City plans address the needs of LA's diverse residents, including people with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs. It resulted in the successful revision and drafting of over 40 emergency plans and annexes, and over 100 Department Standard Operating Procedures in 70 issue areas. These included policies and procedures for addressing the needs of people with disabilities for LAPD and other first responders.

MOPS will also provide 2 Program Managers and 1 Director responsible for management and administration of the grant, compliance with reporting and all other grantor and federal requirements, and coordination of project partners to ensure implementation of the Increased Access to Services Program.