
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 9/16/2025

Title: Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety
for Sexual Assault Services

File Number: 2025-342

Background and Rationale:

Public Health's Sexual Offense Services (SOS) program receives annual state and federal grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs to provide 24/7 crisis advocacy, ongoing individual advocacy, counseling and support, community awareness, information, and education. The SOS program provides follow-up services to victims and secondary victims, such as family and friends of victims who are impacted by sexual violence. Follow-up services are provided only when a client allows SOS permission. These follow-up services may include a general check-in within the first week of the client contacting SOS and medical and legal information as needed.

Research and data on sexual violence experiences have shown sexual assault victims experience considerable short- and longer-term distress. Victims who worked with an advocate were less likely to blame themselves for the sexual assault and less reluctant to seek further help from community support systems. As a result of advocacy, victims are more likely to receive services from community professionals and have better recovery outcomes.

SOS services have been provided in Ramsey County since 1976. SOS answers approximately 8,000 service calls for approximately 1,100 victims of sexual violence, annually. The services provided are in accordance with and by defined terms of the Minnesota Department of Safety Office of Justice Programs. These services include crisis intervention, emotional support, financial resources and support for emergency services, transportation and compensation claims, information and referrals regarding social/human resources services, medical advocacy, criminal and civil advocacy, and safety services.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victim Services for sexual assault services for the period upon execution through September 30, 2026 in the amount of \$347,314.

Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.

Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's policies and procedures.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McMurtrey, seconded by Commissioner Miller.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: Jason Yang
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board