



Missoula City-County
Department of
Relationship Violence
Services

FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering and supporting survivors of violence to rebuild and heal, while creating solutions for a healthy community.



The City-County Department of **Relationship Violence Services** provides court-based crime victim assistance, service coordination, professional training, and community education focused on promoting healthy relationships and community safety. We're a team of advocates, community organizers, and educators with decades of experience, working to promote victim safety, strengthen our community's response to domestic and sexual violence, and prevent future violence.

OUR VISION is to create a Missoula that fosters, honors, and celebrates individual autonomy and complexity; healthy relationships; nurturing communities; and an equitable and inclusive society.

WE LIVE OUR VALUES. We are change-makers who uphold human dignity, with respect, through strength, resiliency, and gratitude.



CHANGE-MAKERS

Relationship Violence Services stands with survivors of violence and abuse and celebrates relationships built on trust, equality, respect, and non-violence. We understand that oppression and liberation of all people are inextricably linked, and our strength lies in our ability to work and move together. We are here to transform our community, and the world.

UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY

We believe that all people deserve safety, ethical and fair treatment, and personal power to have self-determination over our bodies and our lives.



WITH RESPECT

We are considerate, inclusive, and intentional in our decisions and actions. We use emotion, logic, cultural humility, and historical context as our guides.

STRENGTH AND RESILIENCY

Oppression, violence, and abuse impact our community in complex ways, requiring a nuanced holistic approach to make change. We disrupt dominant cultural ideas and restructure systems of power. This can be exhausting and slow going. Nevertheless, we persist.



GRATITUDE

We are honored to provide critical services to our community. We take pride in delivering excellence in our programming and services, and in being positive, proactive, collaborative, dependable, and self-motivated.



CONTENTS

- 1. CRIME VICTIM
ADVOCATE PROGRAM**
- 2. JUST RESPONSE**
- 3. PREVENTION DIVISION**
- 4. RURAL PROGRAMS**

We Walk This Road Together



Our work would not be possible without our valued volunteers, dedicated staff, and the many community and professional partners who work together to bring hope and healing to victims of violent crime. Together we have also provided prevention education and training over the year, raised awareness throughout Missoula County, and acquired thousands of dollars through grants to support this critical work. Our work is a part of Missoula County's goal to ensure public health and protect public safety through outreach, education, service, and prevention.



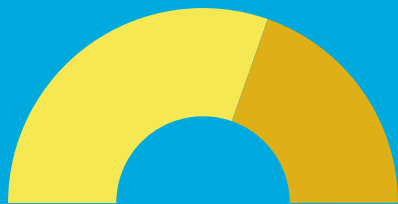
CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Missoula County founded the Crime Victim Advocate program in 1985 to provide free and confidential services to victims of violent crime. Advocacy forms the backbone of interventions to support victims of relationship and sexual violence, and other crimes. Crime victim advocates have a vital role in the justice system and provide a lifeline to anyone in an abusive relationship. Advocates act as a guide for victims as they navigate multiple systems to find safety and healing from the trauma they have experienced.

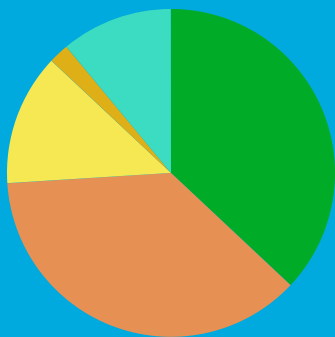
"My advocate was always there for me when I needed her... she was always willing to listen and help."

Looking Back at FY 2019

OUR CLIENTS



● New Cases | 1,782
● Follow-up Visits | 1,148



● Domestic violence - related crimes
● Stalking, harassment, intimidation, etc.
● Sexual violence - related crimes
● Child abuse - related crimes
● All other crimes against persons



98%
of clients felt
listened to and
helped.



95%
would recommend
CVA Program to
others



97%
of clients were
satisfied with
services

SERVICES PROVIDED



34,649

REFERRALS PROVIDED

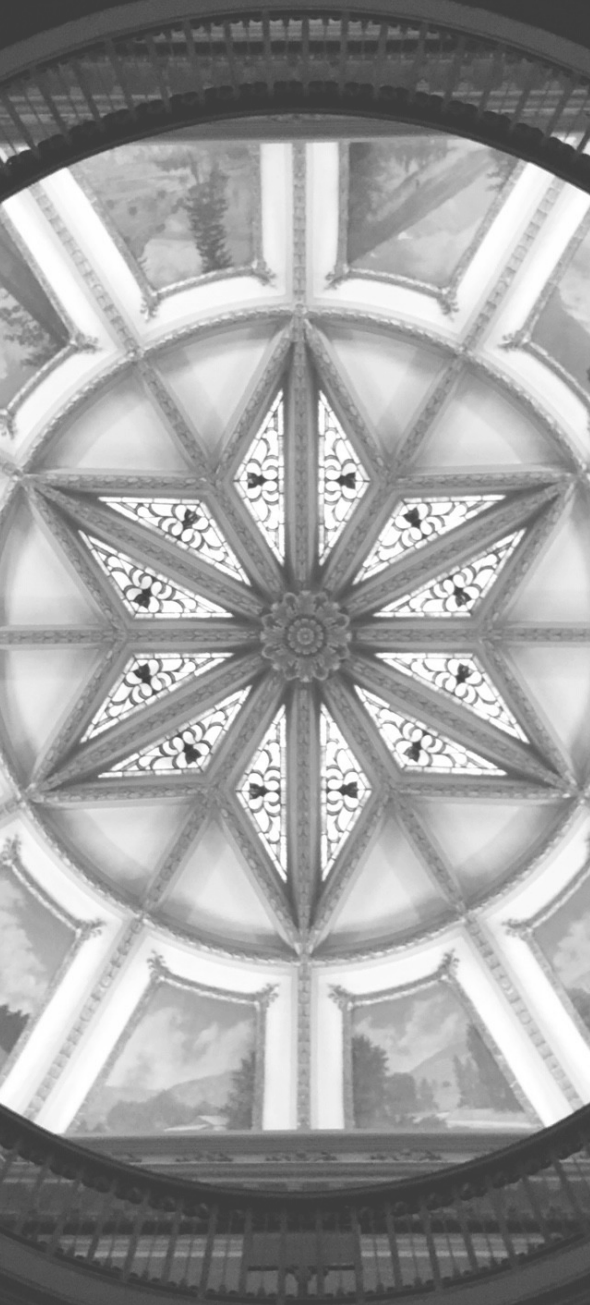


9,868

NEW FUNDING



\$508,000 for
24 months



JUST RESPONSE

Just Response is a collaborative team of advocates, nurses, law enforcement, prosecutors, protection workers, mental health, and legal services professionals that work together on a variety of projects to **create a safe and nurturing community free of violence**. When we do this, our community is safer, healthier, and more vibrant.

We value:



- Victim-centered processes
- Offender accountability
- Collaboration, honest communication, and assumption of goodwill with partners
- Self-reflection, adaptability, and accountability

Our goals:

- ✓ **Increase trust.** When victims of crime feel supported and believed, they are more likely to trust the system to seek help from law enforcement, advocacy, mental health, and other services to move toward healing.
- ✓ **Increase safety.** When crime is reported, more offenders are held accountable, and they can get the help they need. We help them learn that healthy relationships are possible and how their actions may be linked to **adverse childhood experiences**. This strategy can help prevent or lessen future violence in the home.
- ✓ **Improve collaboration.** Professionals in the criminal justice system have differing roles, views, constraints, and experiences, but we work to maintain trust and support one another in challenging work. When the system functions as a team, it works better for everyone.

"I've been to numerous talks and trainings regarding secondary trauma and historical trauma. Both of these presentations today were phenomenal - really enjoyed them!"

FY 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Secured Funds to Close System Gaps

Grant funds supported:

- 80 hours per week of call time for First Step
- YWCA Sexual Assault volunteer advocate stipends, 2 shifts per day
- 24 forensic exams for law enforcement
- Co-location of advocates with law enforcement

Collaborative Projects

- City Club panel on Missoula's response to sexual assault
- Improved safety for 208 victims of violence by implementing specialized lethality screenings by law enforcement
- 4 educational panels for 100 violent offenders

Cross-Disciplinary Training Opportunities

Over 200 participants attended trainings such as:

- 3rd Annual Just Response Orientation
- 8 best practice webinars
- 4 multidisciplinary team in-services
- Full-day conference on creating trauma-informed courts



PREVENTION DIVISION

3

What brings the most joy to your life? For many of us, it's our relationships with the people we love. But when relationships with our family, friends, or romantic partners are unhealthy or abusive, it can negatively impact our lives, causing trauma, distress, and even physical injury or death.

The Prevention Division envisions a world without violence, and collaborates with Missoula City and County service providers, community-based service providers, educators, and community members to move our community closer to that vision.

Looking back at FY 2019

- ✓ Awarded over \$250,000 in multi-year grant funds to support leadership development and prevention education.
- ✓ Provided 134 educational lessons to 1,233 middle and high school students in our service area.
- ✓ Facilitated 11 meetings of the Missoula Healthy Sexuality Network, a group working to promote comprehensive sex education.



SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Make Your Move! is an innovative campaign that engages community members as allies in preventing sexual violence. The campaign is housed at Relationship Violence Services and includes partners from the YWCA Missoula, University of Montana, and the Missoula City-County Health Department.

500+

Engaged over 500 community members through training, tabling, and community events.



Made 375+ posts on social media, resulting in 4,500 comments and shares and 8,900 clicks.



Our team was selected to facilitate a breakout session at the National Sexual Assault Conference!

Follow us on social media:



Our sexual harassment prevention training for alcohol-serving establishments was spotlighted by the CDC in a video series on public health heroes! This training helps ensure that Missoula's vibrant nightlife is safe for everyone.

RURAL PROGRAM

4

Nearly one-third of Missoula County residents live in rural communities. Rural residents may face significant barriers to receiving help after experiencing domestic or sexual violence or stalking. Rural victims are more likely to lack access to jobs, public assistance, social services, transportation, and affordable housing. This makes it that much harder to leave an abusive partner and gain safety for themselves and their children. In 2010 Missoula County partnered with neighboring Mineral County to expand the reach of the rural program.

The Rural Program provides critical, life-saving services to underserved rural communities in Missoula County and Mineral County.

Invested **\$216,000** in
**U.S. Department of
Justice** funds into

3 AREAS

DIRECT SERVICES

Provided 9,430 services to 725 rural clients, including advocacy, emergency shelter, mental health counseling, and legal services.

1

2

3

PREVENTION EDUCATION

Provided 105 lessons for nearly 700 middle and high school youth at schools based in Superior, St. Regis, Alberton, Seeley Lake, Condon, Lolo, and Frenchtown.

TRAINING

Sent three staff to three national conferences and provided trainings for Partnership Health Center, YWCA Missoula, and Parents as Teachers.



Thank you for another great year!

