

Press Release

SOS Receives \$68,968 Grant

Siuslaw Outreach Services has received a Department of Justice grant totaling \$68,968. The grant is a one-time VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) award which will run through September 30th, 2017. The funds, which come from fines for federal crimes, are available only to organizations which assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SOS provided advocacy services to 197 victims in 2015 including shelter, emergency aid, transportation, and access to legal aid. The ongoing base funding for these services comes from grants from the Department of Justice and Department of Human Services. Supplemental funds to serve victims in rural areas of west Lane County come from collaborative grants with Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services, in Eugene. Additional support from the City of Florence helps provide 24 hour emergency responses to law enforcement and the hospital.

The new one-time VOCA grant funds were limited to emergency services, staff training, technology/repair, and capital items. Some of the funds will be used for a vehicle to assist with transporting victims and their families; emergency shelter and aid; repair of water damage at the shelter home; developing a child play area at the shelter; new windows and a security system for the shelter; part of a new phone system at the office; and special training for advocates. The vast majority of the funds will be spent with local vendors.

“Like most other federal grants, this one took many months to develop and ultimately see funded. The grant binder is almost 4 inches thick, and there is a huge amount of reporting involved throughout the grant period. Nevertheless, it will enable us to enhance our services in ways that would be very difficult to afford otherwise,” said Executive Director David Wiegman.