

Press Release

SOS Receives \$50,628 Grant

Siuslaw Outreach Services will receive \$50,628 over the next three years as part of a Department of Justice Rural Grant. The grant was awarded to Kidsfirst in Eugene, a non-profit organization which serves children who are victims of child abuse and sexual assault. Kidsfirst started in 1994 in partnership with the Lane County District Attorney's office. Kidsfirst included SOS in their grant application last year, using a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"), so that there could be local advocacy in west Lane County for children they serve in Eugene. Two SOS advocates have already completed a 40 hour training course directed at these kinds of services. The grant covers a .25 full time equivalency advocate position, related personnel expenses, travel, training, and communication.

SOS has received similar ongoing grants in the last year and a half through partnerships with Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS), both also in Eugene. These partnerships allow for local advocacy, quicker response times, and save on expensive travel. Collaborative efforts such as these are seen by funders as evidence of cooperation and avoidance of duplication of effort.

"We are very pleased to be working closely with all three of these organizations," said Executive Director David Wiegan. "We have been participating in CAMI (Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Intervention) meetings and staff trainings at Kidsfirst for several years. They do an amazing job with extremely difficult situations."