UTAH grants

FN-09703

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM, NEED AND TARGET POPULATION

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The purpose of this section is to develop a clear, concise picture of the problem.

1.Describe the geographical area to be served by the program.

Ivins is a city in Washington County, Utah and is part of the St. George Metropolitan Area as a suburb community. In 2016 the population was estimated to be 8,132 and consists of 51% male, 48% female, and 1% other. The population was 6,753 at the 2010 census, and it was estimated at 6,930 in 2011. In the census of 2000, there were 4,450 people, 1,435 households, and 1,234 families residing in the city.

The population density is 436.3 people per square mile. There are 1,598 housing units at an average density of 156.7 per square mile. The racial makeup of the town is 93.96% White, 0.07% African American, 1.19% Native American, 0.34% Asian, 0.34% Pacific Islander, 2.04% from other races, and 2.07% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race is 3.93% of the population.

There are 1,435 households out of which 43.8% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 76.0% are married couples living together, and 14.0% were non-families. 11.0% of all households are made up of individuals, and 4.6% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 3.1, and the average family size is 3.35.

The population is spread out with 33.1% under the age of 18, 9.0% from 18 to 24, 25.5% from 25 to 44, 20.1% from 45 to 64, and 12.3% who are 65 years of age or older.

About 4.9% of families and 6.8% of the population are below the poverty line, including 9.8% of those under age 18 and 3.4% of those aged 65 or over.

Santa Clara is a city in Washington County, Utah and is a part of the St. George Metropolitan Area. The population was 6,003 at the 2010 census, up from 4,630 at the 2000 census were there were 4,630 people, 1,225 households, and 1,134 families residing in the city.

The population density is 948.1 people per square mile. There are 1,294 housing units at an average density of 265.0 per square mile. The racial makeup of the city is 97.32% White, 0.15% African American, 0.30% Native American, 0.28% Asian, 0.32% Pacific Islander, 0.48% from other races, and 1.14% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race is 2.03% of the population.

There are 1,225 households out of which 57.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 86.0% are married couples living together, and 7.4% were non-families. 6.4% of all households were made up of individuals, and 3.6% had someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 3.78, and the average family size is 3.96.

The population is spread out with 40.2% under the age of 18, 9.3% from 18 to 24, 23.7% from 25 to 44, 17.3% from 45 to 64, and 9.5% who are 65 years of age or older.

About 2.7% of families and 3.5% of the population are below the poverty line, including 4.1% of those under age 18 and 2.8% of those aged 65 or over.

2. Discuss the nature and scope of the problem in your program service area. If the problem is the result of many factors, these factors should be analyzed and discussed. Provide statistical information such as violent crime rates, trends and requests in services, etc.

The part-time specialized detective unit at the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department has been an asset in addressing the problems related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse and other victimized crimes against underserved populations, however, we have found as this position started up the caseloads become greater than the hours devoted to the investigative nature these crimes needed.

Our area shows the need for a full-time specialized detective to meet the needs of our citizens falling under VAWA related crimes (domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, and other victimized crimes against underserved populations), as well as making sure these victims are being notified of the services and resources available to them. We want to make sure these rural victims of crime get the help they need from a detective specialing trained to handle, beyond a patrol officer with limited training on these types of crimes.

*Please note two law enforcement officers currently understaff the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department. The reason for this is that both cities are considered to be bedroom communities, meaning that there are little to no standing businesses that can be taxed. Businesses in this area are online, money-based, and remote, so they don't contribute to the cities' budget. The budget is based almost entirely off of residential tax, so it remains paltry in comparison to those communities that boast taxable industry.

3.Describe victim needs in the given service location.

All VAWA eligible victims need to be aware of the support services and resources available to them. It is essential to have knowledge and resources immediately available to reassure the victims and help them decide to take action to break the cycle of violence and minimize victimization. The VAWA investigator must also be able to communicate effectively to overcome any language, cultural/family differences, as well as the expectations within the community. There must be a positive working relationship and trust built through positive reinforcement when reporting crimes and enhancing prosecution.

Those victims whose incidents are reported are only being given limited investigative time with no mention of other resources and rights beyond a brochure at the time of reporting. Victims are not receiving local access to legal advocacy, protective order assistance in a timely manner, reparation and restitution filing assistance, crisis counseling referrals, and notification of court and their rights as victims. This program is designed to provide immediate, and follow-up investigative services and outreach for victims, along with victims service referrals and customized assistance, and referrals to community and state agencies for victims who are currently not receiving any services unless they seek them out at their own expense.

4.List and describe the barriers to victim service and safety within your agency and within your community.

Victims play a crucial role in the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of domestic violence and victimization crimes. It is necessary for authorities to recognize possible needs and barriers that may cause the victim to be hesitant to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the case. Victims often have a lack of knowledge of the dynamics in these types of cases and often return to offenders, thinking things will get better or their personal safety is no longer threatened. It is essential this be understood for effective investigation.

Currently, the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department has a Police Chief, a Captian, three Sergeants and one part-time Detective with the rest of its personnel consisting of eight patrol officers which does not allow domestic violence and victimization cases to be adequately served or investigated due to the high volume calls for service (none DV related).

It should also be noted these communities are rural and will be an added challenge to facilitate travel to those in the outlying areas who lack the money or means to drive to court hearings, medical appointments, CJC interviews, and counseling appointments.

5.Indicate the group(s) of victims the program will target for its services.

We have identified the following victim groups, the elderly, Hispanic or Latino, the homeless or those living in poverty, LGBT, American Indian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian, those who have disabilities or mental health issues or substance abuse issues, and live in rural areas are victims of stalking, domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault within our communities.