
HOUSE BILL 1717

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Sawyer, Walsh, Kagi, Lytton, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Buys, Farrell, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/27/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to services for victims of sexual assault; and
2 amending RCW 43.280.020, 43.280.050, 70.125.020, 70.125.030, and
3 70.125.060.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.280.020 and 2012 c 29 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department of commerce is authorized to distribute funds
8 that have been allocated to the grant program that it administers for
9 serving victims of sexual assault.

10 (2) Activities that can be funded through this grant program are
11 limited to those that:

12 (a) Provide effective services to victims of sexual assault;

13 (b) Increase access to and availability of services for victims
14 of sexual assault, particularly if from underserved populations; and

15 (c) Create or build on efforts by existing community programs,
16 coordinate those efforts, or develop cooperative efforts or other
17 initiatives to make the most effective use of resources to provide
18 treatment services to these victims.

19 (3) Funding for core, specialized, children's advocacy center,
20 and underserved populations services, as defined in RCW 70.125.030,
21 must be distributed through a funding formula to those applicants

1 that emphasize providing stable, victim-centered sexual assault
2 services and possess the qualifications to provide those services.

3 (4) The department of commerce shall ensure that grant recipients
4 assist victims to utilize private insurance and crime victims'
5 compensation benefits first before grant funds are used for therapy
6 services.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.280.050 and 2012 c 29 s 4 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) At a minimum, grant applications for specialized and
10 underserved services must include the following:

11 (a) The geographic area from which the victims to be served are
12 expected to come;

13 (b) A description of the extent and effect of the needs of these
14 victims within the relevant geographic area;

15 (c) A proposed budget and an explanation of how the funds will be
16 used, their relationship to existing services available within the
17 community, and the need that they will fulfill;

18 (d) An explanation of what community organizations were involved
19 in the community coordination that resulted in the development of the
20 proposal; and

21 (e) Documentation of the applicant's capacity to provide
22 specialized services and services for underserved populations, as
23 defined in this chapter, and a description of how the applicant
24 intends to comply with service standards and data collection as
25 established by the department.

26 (2) At a minimum, grant applications for core services must
27 include the following:

28 (a) The geographic area from which the victims to be served are
29 expected to come;

30 (b) Assurance of the applicant's compliance with service
31 standards, data collection, and management standards established by
32 the department; and

33 (c) Documentation of the applicant's capacity to provide core
34 services, as defined in this chapter.

35 (3) At a minimum, grant applications for children's advocacy
36 centers must include the following:

37 (a) The geographic area from which the victims to be served are
38 expected to come;

1 (b) Assurance that the organization is in good standing with the
2 state chapter of children's advocacy centers.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.125.020 and 2012 c 29 s 9 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

6 (1) Sexual assault is a serious crime in society, affecting a
7 large number of children, women, and men each year;

8 (2) Efforts over many years to distribute information and collect
9 data have demonstrated the incidence of sexual assault that continues
10 to impact communities, families, and individuals;

11 (3) Over the past three decades, law enforcement, prosecutors,
12 medical professionals, child protective services, educators, mental
13 health providers, public health professionals, and victim advocates
14 have benefited from a commitment to training and learning regarding
15 appropriate responses to and services for victims of sexual assault;

16 (4) This same effort has resulted in increased public awareness
17 of sexual assault and its impact on communities, families, and
18 individuals;

19 (5) Law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, child
20 protective services, educators, mental health providers, public
21 health professionals, and victim advocates should continue to work
22 closely and collaboratively to improve responses to and services for
23 victims of sexual assault;

24 (6) The physical, emotional, financial, and psychological needs
25 of victims and their families are particularly well-served by timely
26 and effective services provided in local communities; and

27 (7) Persons who are victims of sexual assault benefit directly
28 from continued public awareness and education, prosecutions of
29 offenders, a criminal justice system which treats them in a humane
30 manner, and access to victim-centered, culturally relevant services.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.125.030 and 2012 c 29 s 10 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
34 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

35 (1) "Child protective services" means those services provided by
36 the department designed to protect children from child abuse and
37 neglect and safeguard such children from future abuse and neglect,
38 and investigations of child abuse and neglect reports.

1 (2) "Children's advocacy center" means a child-focused facility
2 in good standing with the state chapter for children's advocacy
3 centers and that coordinates a multidisciplinary process for the
4 investigation, prosecution, and treatment of sexual and other types
5 of child abuse. Children's advocacy centers provide a location for
6 forensic interviews and coordinate access to services such as, but
7 not limited to, medical evaluations, advocacy, therapy, and case
8 review by multidisciplinary teams within the context of county
9 protocols as defined in RCW 26.44.180 and 26.44.185.

10 (3) "Community sexual assault program" means a community-based
11 social service agency that is qualified to provide and provides core
12 services to victims of sexual assault.

13 ~~((2))~~ (4) "Core services" means those services that are victim-
14 centered community-based advocacy responses to alleviate the impact
15 of sexual assault, as delineated in the Washington state sexual
16 assault services plan of 1995 and its subsequent revisions.

17 ~~((3))~~ (5) "Department" means the department of commerce.

18 ~~((4))~~ (6) "Law enforcement agencies" means police and sheriff's
19 departments and tribal law enforcement departments or agencies of
20 this state.

21 ~~((5))~~ (7) "Multidisciplinary team" means a coordinated team of
22 professionals and agencies that may include prosecutors, law
23 enforcement, child protective services, medical services, and mental
24 health services providing a child-focused services and intervention
25 approach to child abuse cases through a nationally accredited
26 children's advocacy center.

27 (8) "Personal representative" means a friend, relative, attorney,
28 or employee or volunteer from a community sexual assault program,
29 children's advocacy center, or specialized treatment service
30 provider.

31 ~~((6))~~ (9) "Services for underserved populations" means
32 culturally relevant victim-centered community-based advocacy
33 responses to alleviate the impact of sexual assault, as delineated in
34 the Washington state sexual assault services plan of 1995 and its
35 subsequent revisions.

36 ~~((7))~~ (10) "Sexual assault" means one or more of the following:

37 (a) Rape or rape of a child;

38 (b) Assault with intent to commit rape or rape of a child;

39 (c) Incest or indecent liberties;

40 (d) Child molestation;

- 1 (e) Sexual misconduct with a minor;
2 (f) Custodial sexual misconduct;
3 (g) Crimes with a sexual motivation;
4 (h) Sexual exploitation or commercial sex abuse of a minor;
5 (i) Promoting prostitution; or
6 (j) An attempt to commit any of the aforementioned offenses.

7 ~~((+8))~~ (11) "Specialized services" means those services intended
8 to alleviate the impact of sexual assault, as delineated in the
9 Washington state sexual assault services plan of 1995 and its
10 subsequent revisions.

11 ~~((+9))~~ (12) "Victim" means any person who suffers physical,
12 emotional, financial, and psychological impact as a proximate result
13 of a sexual assault.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.125.060 and 1979 ex.s. c 219 s 6 are each amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) If the victim of a sexual assault so desires, a personal
17 representative of the victim's choice may accompany the victim to the
18 hospital or other health care facility, and to proceedings concerning
19 the alleged assault, including police and prosecution interviews and
20 court proceedings.

21 (2) Where a nationally accredited children's advocacy center
22 exists, if the victim is under the age of thirteen, a child advocacy
23 center multidisciplinary team representative may be assigned to
24 ensure coordination of the victim's medical, legal, and therapeutic
25 response services.

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