

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Implementing Entity: Orpe Human Rights Advocates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hire 1 full-time Program Coordinator</li><li>• Hire 1 full-time Bilingual Shelter Manager</li><li>• Hire 1 Part-time Administrative Assistant</li><li>• Hire 1 full-time Staff Attorney</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hire 1 part-time court-based victim advocate</li><li>• Hire 1 full time Social Worker</li><li>• Hire 1 full-time Training Specialist</li><li>• Contract with outside consultant to provide trauma-informed care</li></ul> |
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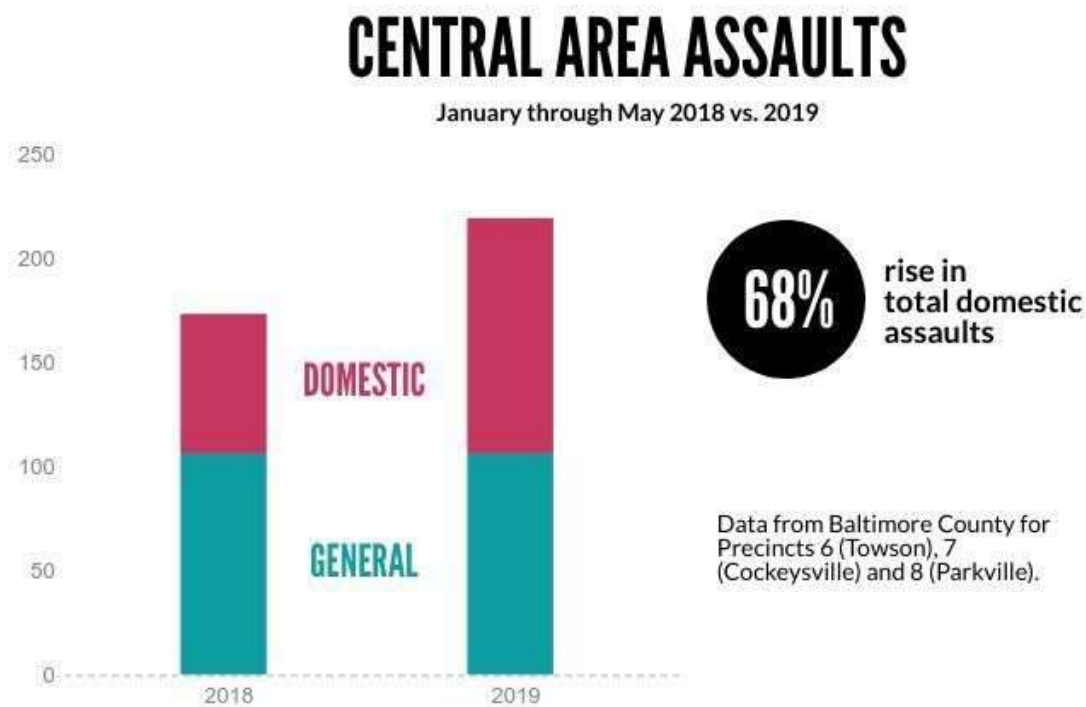
### I. OVERVIEW

ORPE Human Rights Advocates (ORPE Advocacy) is a community based victim services project that provides legal assistance and emergency shelter services to victims of crimes. This project is a multi-disciplinary approach in providing victim services and it includes: Victim Services Department; Behavioral Health; Social Services; Restoring Human Dignity Programs; and external partnerships to meet the needs of the community. Within the scope of this grant application, should it be approved, the project will be implemented by the Victim Services Department which provides Legal Assistance to Victims. The department is headed by a **Chief Legal Staff** (Mr. Edward-t Moises). Mr. Moises holds law school degrees (JD, LLM) from Beasley School of Law; Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2005. He is a well-trained litigator and had concentrated part of his legal education in the practice of Trial Advocacy who has the passion for advocating for the causes of those who cannot assert their own fundamental rights. In partnership with the Summit Ministry Center (MOU attached), a faith-based ministry, ORPE Advocacy provides both Legal Assistance and Emergency Shelter Services to victims of domestic violence, and victims of sexual abuses, dating, stalking, homeless and at risk-homelessness pregnant and women with substance use disorders (SUD) and their infants. The Shelter is located in Maryland at 2800 Westchester Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043. ORPE Advocacy will be providing Shelter Services, domestic violence safe house with accommodation for up to 16 individuals; a 24-hour hotline; counseling, support groups, rehabilitation and victim legal services. The Shelter's facility is about twenty thousand square feet (20,000 SF) building sitting on a Campus of 10 Acres. The Shelter has 25 rooms of 300 SF each and 24 beds. The shelter is

equipped with commercial kitchen and restaurant and serves free breakfast, lunch and dinner. It does have a food pantry. The Shelter is managed by, Pastor Suzy Fletcher. Shelter program's policy does not discriminate on the base of individual's belief, race, nationality, and ethnic origin. It is a peaceful and learning place. The organization assumes a geographically areas which incorporates all Maryland for implementation of a multidisciplinary programs and services. Normally, ORPE's project model is scattered within the idea of being implemented in other, states and expected to contribute in serving the needs of population throughout the entire United States. ORPE Victims Legal Assistance Program offers no-cost confidential legal consultations with licensed social workers, advocates and lawyers who have the passions of helping others. They are well-trained and have the abilities of listening to the concerns of victims and help them choose the best avenues that the law can provide for the victims' goals. Crime victim lawyers will be answering legal questions to help clients understand the civil legal process and the clients' rights as crime victims/survivors. If victim decide to seek redress before the Court, ORPE can offer victim representation in certain areas. Staff are also available to provide victims/survivors of crime information on completing Maryland Office of Victim Services (OVS) Victims Compensation Application. ORPE provides a series of OVC approved services that integrate therapeutic and remedial programs that include legal and non-legal services. Project is expected to be staffed with specialists who address victims' holistic, comprehensive, and trauma-informed programming including advocacy, individual/group/community therapy, self-sufficient income programs, outreach services, and legal services for victims of crimes.

Since its designation as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area by the Office of National Drug Control Policy in 1994, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA (W/B HIDTA) region has grown from 13 jurisdictions to 28 counties and 15 cities in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. These counties and cities include major metropolitan areas, such as Washington, DC, Baltimore, Richmond, Roanoke, and Norfolk; suburban communities; small towns; and traditionally rural areas. The W/B HIDTA region encompasses approximately 11,674 square miles, or approximately one-sixth the land area of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Approximately 11.6 million people reside

in the region, including 100 percent of the population in the District of Columbia, 92 percent of Maryland, 61 percent of Virginia, and 11 percent of West Virginia. Overall, approximately two-thirds of the total population of these four jurisdictions is located in a designated HIDTA area. High Intensity Drug Trafficking is one of the major root causes of domestic violence, sexual assault, women trafficking, and child abuse. ORPE Project uncovers W/B HIDTA. In Maryland, Baltimore areas are the center of gravity of domestic violence, sexual assault, children abuse, and women trafficking. According to Baltimore SUN, from 2018 to 2019, there was an increase of 68% of crime of domestic violence in Baltimore County.



Similarly, Maryland’s location on the I-95 corridor makes it easy for traffickers to transport people on the NY-DC-VA circuit. According to the Maryland Rescue and Restore Coalition (2016) trafficking in Maryland is lucrative. On average, a trafficker can make \$200,000 annually from one girl. Victims have reported that Maryland is one of the top three most profitable states. The National Human Trafficking Hotline (2017) reports that from 2007 to December 2016, Maryland calls to the hotline numbered 3081 with a total of 770 trafficking cases. Preliminary data shows CST victims in Maryland are 91% female, 4% male, 3% transgender and 2% unknown. However, the total of

trafficking numbers in any area is notoriously difficult to substantiate; many are reported as prostitution, and victims are unwilling to come forward due to fear. Furthermore, according to Anne Arundel County Police Department, the area surrounding BWI airport is becoming known as the third-most-lucrative area for trafficking in people (Allert, 2016). Data for the first 6 months of 2018 are showed an almost 100% increase in cases. In the Anne Arundel County for example, there are only two detectives fully dedicated to human trafficking. Children below the age of 18 are at risk for trafficking. According to the University of Maryland School Of Social Work Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (2017) over 200 child sex trafficking (CST) victims were identified in 17 counties across Maryland since July 2013. Most were Maryland residents between the ages of 14-17. Vulnerable populations include unaccompanied immigrant minors, homeless and runaway youth and youth who have run away from foster care or juvenile services. According to respondents in this needs assessment, the number of young Hispanic trafficked victims (related to gang activity) is underreported. Between 2012 and 2017, Anne Arundel County Department of Juvenile Services aided several trafficking victims 18 and under. Any youth on runaway status from the county department of social services is now considered as a potential sex trafficking case. When victims are identified they are referred to the Child Advocacy Center. However, officials noted an absence of services and supports for trafficking victims in Maryland Counties. Counties Domestic Services are managed by YWCA which is the main provider of domestic violence and sexual assault services for women and child victims. However, YWCA is not able to provide response to all victims in counties. Here where the merit ORPE Human Rights Advocates became more relevant.

## **II. CURRENT STATE OF VICTIMS SERVICES**

Currently, the ORPE's Office of Chief Legal Staff houses the Victim Witness Coordinator (Miss. Zora Vela), who is the only full-time employee whose role is to serve all victims of crime. However, that individual is also the only support person in the Office of the Legal Services, which means that her duties are largely related to case preparation that do not involve direct outreach to and support of victims. Direct outreach would be better handled by a Social Worker. Social Worker would have been effective in co-managing cases within the county systems. However, Social worker also would only be effective enough if

provided with the means and capacity to properly respond to the needs and manage cases within the Court system. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are served by the ORPE's social program, which also operates the programs, which provide emergency shelter and permanent housing, many of whom are victims of domestic violation, victims of sexual assault, refugees, asylees, and victims of women trafficking. Victims Witness Coordinator (VWC) coordinates forensic interviews, court support services, and counseling. There is a need for an accredited BIA immigration legal advocate whose role will be preparing, counseling victims of human rights abuse in immigration and related matters including asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of women trafficking. He/she is expected of providing support to immigrants and refugees and their communities, and improving training for service staff on the particular needs of these populations. Depending on the availability of the funds, ORPE hires the services of licensed attorneys to handle cases requiring representation before the courts including children neglect, custody, divorce, and deportation matters. Staff are available to assist victims with filing petitions when requesting Personal Protection Orders. Staff are also available to provide victims/survivors of crime information on completing Maryland Office of Victim Services (OVS) Victims Compensation Application. ORPE is one of the rare domestic violence shelter project in the area dedicated in providing a wide range of comprehensive legal and non-legal services to victims; of which include holistic, comprehensive, and trauma-informed programming including advocacy, individual/group/community education, and outreach services. ORPE main office is located is located at 2800 Westchester Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Within this Office are one (1) part-time case manager (victim advocates); one (1) part-time adm-assistants; one (1) full time program manager. The emergency shelter includes one (1) full-time shelter manager; two (2) shelter workers. Additionally, there is a need to rent offices space to house lawyer, victims advocate, and social worker. There is a need of one (1) Staff travel throughout area on a daily-basis depending upon victim transportation Orpe advocacy services provides voluntarily assistance and support to victims and their children regardless of the law enforcement involvement or length of time since the assault or crime took place. The scope of Orpe Advocacy services is numerous and includes crisis intervention, emotional

support, safety plan development, and legal assistance. ORPE provides information to and make referrals available to community resources, such as financial assistance, food assistance, rent/housing assistance, etc. ORPE provides civil advocacy within the state, and federal judicial system and provides assistance with completion, submission, and monitoring of crime victim compensation application. ORPE is implementing a comprehensive victim services that address substance abuses and mental health needs that co-occur with or as a result from victimization. There is a need of a part-time substance abuse coordinator whose role is develop and maintain the coordinated delivery of substance abuse treatment and prevention, promotion and education services to victims and community. Due to unavailability of the funds, there exist difficult for managing frequent staff turnover and challenges retaining qualified staff, particularly attorneys and victim advocates trained to work with limited English proficiency (LEP) and other underserved victims. ORPE Advocacy also in some cases seeks the services of retired attorneys to help victims solve legal matters. We know that to be successfully, there is a need of enhancing coordination and collaboration with communities, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors. This role is fulfilled by a program manager who coordinates projects.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE**

Specifically, ORPE has identified the following needs and gaps in victim services that will be addressed through this grant:

Victims of domestic violence, children abuse, sexually abused and sex trafficking victims are at great risk for injuries including death. This problem is exacerbated by the opioid epidemic, but also due to COVID-19. There are overlaps and intersections between these types of violence Americans are required to stay home to protect themselves and their communities because of COVID. However, the home may not be safe for many families who experience domestic violence, which may include both intimate partners and children. COVID has caused major economic devastation, disconnected many from community resources and support systems, and created widespread uncertainty and panic. Such conditions stimulated violence in families where it didn't exist before and worsen situations in homes where mistreatment and violence has been a problem. For domestic violence crimes have aroused by 68% in 2019 to 2020. Violence in the home has an overall cost to society, leading to potentially

adverse physical and mental health outcomes, including a higher risk of chronic disease, substance use, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and risky sexual behaviors. Several gaps have been identified: the lack of trauma-informed and crisis intervention training for ORPE Department that is part of the victim services multi-disciplinary approach. It is important to acknowledge that IPV injury can extend beyond physical injury and result in death. Data from U.S. crime reports suggest that 16% (about 1 in 6) of homicide came from IPV injury. Maryland law defines domestic violence as the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members; assault, serious bodily harm, fear of imminent serious bodily harm, rape or sexual offense, attempted rape or sexual offense, stalking, and false imprisonment. However, there are insufficient or an absence of services and supports for domestic violence and trafficking victims in the MD counties. As commented by Baltimore Police Officer: *"there aren't any resources to help with recovery for them, let alone placement resources that can help them work through some of the trauma that they have experienced"*. As it can be noted, providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and children abuse, and victims of women trafficking is what constitutes the DNA of ORPE legal department's mission. However, this mission would not provide satisfactory response if there are no well-trained staff members to improve crisis response and intervention in order to reduce trauma experienced by victims and their non-offending relatives. That's why we propose to hire one (1) court-based well-trained victims' advocate, one (1) staff attorney, one (1) trauma-informed specialist, and two (2) social workers to support victims as they move to the legal system. Another gap is the delay in the adjudication of the cases involving abused children in Maryland due to the overloaded cases. Children victims of abuses or neglect are primarily handled within the state Child Welfare Systems ("CWS"). These systems are overloaded with cases. Families frustrated by the lack of response from the counties will be turning to ORPE Advocacy who offers free legal assistance and advocacy and help establish a custody/guardianship of their minor aged relatives who have experienced abuse and/or neglect. Another issue is the need for a well-trained culturally and language services and case manager to serve immigrant victims of women trafficking, asylum seekers, and refugees. These individuals and families face significant challenges, especially in area of housing, access to local services, health, transportation, cultural differences, raising children, language barriers, food, employment opportunities and

prejudice. A well-trained case manager who would have been advocating for them would be of benefit in reducing the negative impact of challenges faced by immigrant victims.

#### **IV. PROJECT AND IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION**

ORPE Advocacy has identified the following project design components that directly respond to the needs and gaps identified above:

ORPE Advocacy proposes to use funding for travel costs and registration fees for two OVC-related trainings per year, such as the Conference on Crimes Against Women or Conference with related topics such as: Justice for Victims of Crime, for staff to increase our staff's ability to comprehensively support victims. The OVC-related trainings help victims, victim service providers, allied professionals, and other interested parties. OVC provides federal funds to support crime victim compensation and assistance programs throughout the Nation, offers training for diverse professionals who work with victims, develops and disseminates publications, supports projects to enhance victims' rights and services, and educates the public about victim issues. We propose to use the requested funds to expand the services of victim Programs by hiring one (1) full-time Legal Advocate to work with victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual abuse, victims of stalking, victims of women trafficking, and child abuse/neglect within the Maryland service area. One full-time (1) licensed social worker to provide mental health counseling to victims; conducting initial assessments of victim's situation to determine needs and goals; researching and advocating for appropriate public assistance resources for victims; communicating with victims' care teams; providing crisis intervention as needed; referring victims to appropriate treatment centers, as indicated; ensuring that all case files, and other records, strictly comply with policies, regulations, and procedures; coordinating victims' developmental planning and maintaining ongoing contact with outside service providers; and actively participating in ongoing training as needed in order to meet all certification standards and credentialing policies. The Chief Legal Staff Officer will be supervising and monitoring staff attorneys to ensure competent representation of each client according to national performance standards and ethical



rules. The objective of supervision is to assure that all victims legal services provided by lawyers are 'competent' within the meaning of rules of professional conduct and 'effective' pursuant to prevailing professional standards. The Project proposes to hire half-time Administrative Assistant to assist with data reporting, creating outreach material, and to assist with transportation. These positions will work within the DLS programs department to provide crisis intervention, resources, and referrals to victims of crime upon first contact with the ORPE Advocacy. Funding will be used to upgrade the ORPE Advocacy's case management and data collection software to ensure proper tracking of data of victims of crime. The Project will also provide victim services to include but not be limited to emergency food/snacks, clothing, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, toiletries, household supplies, lodging, transportation costs, childcare assistance, relocations costs, and court-related fees. We propose to use funding to purchase emergency closet supplies; all of which will support the victim services. ORPE Advocacy is able to provide emergency supplies on a case-by-case basis. We propose to use funding to contract with a female holistic therapist. Holistic therapeutic approach is based on understanding of the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of balance and harmony in Creation. Our mind, body, spirit and emotions are all interconnected. Excellent health status is achieved when all four parts of one's being are in balance. Holistic healing is restoring of balance to the mind, body, spirit and emotions for a more balanced and harmonious path to healing and recovery. Holistic healing practices and cultural enhancement activities are both core and complementary interventions in promoting wellness and long-term recovery. These practices and activities are interlaced throughout many behavioral health programs. A holistic therapist can make use of community strengths by developing coordinated community responses with law enforcement, criminal justice, and health and human services while protecting confidentiality and reducing stigma. 9) We propose to use funding to expand our ability to contract with up one licensed attorneys who will be providing necessary legal representation and advocacy to support to victims. We propose to use funds to contract the services of licensed Trauma-Informed Counselor (TIC) for the Victims. The TIC will provide counseling services for victims and survivors of interpersonal violence. The counselor will participate as part of the

DV, Child Advocacy, and Sexual Assault team to provide additional case management services including assistance with identification and utilization of resources, triage cases, provide assistance to Victim Services Department, assist in advocacy for victims. Program serves all victims equally regardless of age, race, religious belief, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic status.

## V. PURPOSE

To implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault victim service providers and legal assistance providers to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

<b>GOAL 1:</b>			
Providing direct legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating, stalking and insure safety for victims while involved in the criminal justice process.			
<b>OBJECTIVE :</b>	Increase trauma-informed interaction with victims and utilize community partners to help identify areas of concern for victims		
<b>Strategy:</b> Establish collaborative efforts and projects among all key community stakeholders through ORPE Advocacy’s activities to enhance services, investigate, forensic evidence and prosecute crimes of SA, DV, Dating, Stalking...			
Activity 1	Timeframe	Outcome	Evaluation
Address immediate legal and safety needs of crime victims (protective order, etc..)	Ongoing	Victims will be able to report that their sense of safety and security has increased as a result of the services received through this project.	At each meeting, victims will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating their increase in skills and knowledge about in planning their own safety.
Review Lethality Assessment Reports and determine high risk offender.	Ongoing	Victims express an understanding of their victimizations and its effect on their lives. Increase in knowledge about victimization	victims will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating the degree of their fears.
Determine immediate need of victims and work with community resources to meet those needs.	Ongoing	Client express satisfaction about the services	Victims will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating their satisfaction for the services received.
Contact clients for follow-up after the crimes report is filed	Ongoing	Victims report that their quality of life have improved because the set goals have been accomplished	Victims will be asked to indicate the needs and if these needs are being met.
Link victims to community contacts to assist victim with ongoing safety planning needs assessments, and social services in the community setting.	Ongoing	Victims will be able to report an increase in knowledge about the criminal justice system	Victims will be asked to complete onsite evaluation to indicate the community contacts to assist for the needs and ongoing safety planning.

**Goal 2:**

Establish a ORPE/State multi-disciplinary team that will increase communication across the various systems that serve crime victims to help develop a trauma informed community response for crime victims and provision of legal assistance, especially victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, dating, children and victims of human trafficking.

Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3
By the end of Month 6, project staff will identify and invite community partners in our service area to participate in the policy committee. The policy committee will create policy and procedures that adhere to State and Federal laws regarding confidentiality	By month 6, local agencies will be aware of the project and necessary MOU development will have started with local agencies (Social Services, Law Enforcement, District Attorney, etc.).	By the end of month 12, at least one MDT meeting will be completed and meetings will continue at least bi-monthly through the project period.

**Goal 3:**

To increase the accessibility to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate victim services by creating holistic case plans, developed with information gathered from an MDT setting with input from the victim, service providers and local agencies

Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3
By month 6, project staff will create and begin distribution of a survey of local victim service agencies to determine a menu (what and where local services are available) and how to access them. By month 12, outreach materials will be available that identify crime victim services, availability and eligibility.	By the end of year 1, project staff will develop at least one holistic case plan that addresses accessibility of crime victim's services.	By the end of Year 2, project staff will have developed service plans for 15 crime victims that offer services that increase access to available services in the community and when no community services are available, the project specialist will deliver support services as identified in question above.  By the end of Year 3, more than 60 clients will have received program services.

**GOAL 4:**

Support and enhance the capacity of the identified rural communities to provide support and legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, stalking, dating and to build community capacity to prevent 1st time perpetration of these crimes, through the creation of Coordinated Community (CCR) and Sexual Assault (SA) Response Teams.

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	Increasing the identification, assessment of and appropriate response to adult victims of SA; DV; and Sex Trafficking, in rural communities through building collaborative efforts among SA and DV victim service providers; law enforcement agencies; prosecutors; courts; other criminal justice service providers; human and community service providers; educational institutions; and health care providers; by encouraging, supporting collaboration and coordination of services to victims of SA, DV and their families.
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<b>Strategy:</b>	Establish cooperative efforts and projects among all key community stakeholders through ORPE Advocacy's activities to enhance services, investigate and prosecute incidents of SA and DV.
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Activity	Timeframe	Outcome	Evaluation
ORPE's CCR and/or ORPE's SART Specialists will provide training to local CCR and/or SART Coordinator on best practices and necessary structures to establish cooperative relationships and projects among all key	Months 1-8	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will demonstrate increased skills and knowledge about community collaboration, including building sustainable collaborations with underserved communities to	At each training session, training participants (local CCR/SART Coordinators will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating their increase in skills and knowledge about community collaboration and sustainable collaborations with underserved communities.

community stakeholders. Trainings will include a focus on the provision of legal assistance to the underserved communities.		identify crime victims in need of legal assistance.	
With support from ORPE CCR Specialist and/or ORPE's SART Specialist, communities will conduct written assessment of service providers to identify strengths and barriers within the community to create a coordinated response to incidents of SA and/or DV.		Local CCR/SART Coordinators will have an enhanced understanding of the strengths and barriers to support collaboration among service providers in their communities.	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will submit analysis of the service provider assessments. Community assessments will be conducted at the beginning of the project to establish a baseline, and re-administered at the end of the project to measure change in strengths and barriers to community collaboration.
ORPE's CCR Specialist and ORPE's SART Specialist will train local CCR/SART Coordinators on how to establish leadership and structure of CCR/SART.	Months 9-16	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will demonstrate an understanding about effective structures and leadership for community collaboration	At each training session, training participants and local CCR/SART Coordinators will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating their increase in skills and knowledge about community collaboration
Based on assessment results, local CCR and/or SART Coordinators will invite interested stakeholders to become members of CCR/SART team, establish a leadership structure and begin convening monthly meetings	Months 17-23	Increased collaboration in communities regarding services and prevention initiatives. CCR teams will represent the diversity of their communities.	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will present membership rosters, description of leadership structure, and inclusion plan for underserved communities, and meeting minutes to ORPE's CCR and ORPE's SART Specialists

**GOAL 5:**

Empower ORPE's CCR and SART Specialists to enhance awareness and help create multiple access points for survivors

<b>OBJECTIVE :</b>	Increasing the safety and well-being of women and children in rural communities by dealing directly, immediately, appropriately and effectively with SA and DV.
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<b>Strategy:</b>	Work in cooperation with the community to develop activities (such as standardization of protocols) that increase coordination of services for victims of SA and DV.
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Activities	Timeframe	Outcome	Evaluation
ORPE's CCR Specialist and ORPE's SART Specialist will provide training on community education and awareness and about creating multiple access points for survivors	Months 24-29	CCR/SART team members will demonstrate increased knowledge and skills about how to facilitate community awareness and how to create multiple points of entry to service system.	Training participants (local CCR/SART Coordinators will be asked to complete onsite evaluations indicating their increase in skills and knowledge about facilitation of community awareness and creation of multiple points of entry.
ORPE's CCR Specialist and ORPE's SART Specialist will provide technical assistance on facilitating cross-training sessions among providers.	Ongoing	CCR and SART teams will begin to implement cross-training events..	Local CCR and SART Coordinators will submit to ORPE reports on number of cross-training sessions conducted and barriers to community collaboration.
ORPE CCR Specialist and ORPE SART Specialist will provide training and technical	Ongoing	Local CCR and SART team member organizations will	Local CCR and SART Coordinators will submit samples of newly-

assistance as needed concerning the creation of inter-agency referral and service protocols.		create inter-agency referral and service protocols.	developed protocols developed to ORPE.
ORPE Consultant will work with local CCR/SART teams and local healthcare providers to establish and/or strengthen SANE programs.	Ongoing	Numbers of survivors served by ORPE programs will increase in communities.	ORPE programs will be asked to submit baseline and post-project service numbers for people served through ORPE project
<b>GOAL 6:</b>			
Increasing the safety and well-being of women and children in rural communities by dealing directly, immediately, appropriately and effectively with SA and DV.			
<b>OBJECTIVE :</b>	Creating and implementing relevant strategies to increase awareness and prevent first time perpetration of SA and DV		
<b>Strategy:</b> State and local CCR/SART Coordinators will work to develop local strategies to increase awareness and change attitudes, norms and policies that condone, support or ignore SA and DV.			
Activities	Timeframe	Outcome	Evaluation
Local CCR/SART Coordinator will receive tools and training from ORPE about engaging their SART/CCR team to conduct a community-wide forum to assess attitudes, beliefs and behaviors which condone, perpetuate or combat violence against women. They will receive tools to assist with analyzing assessment results	Months 30-36	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will have the capacity to host community-wide forms about domestic and sexual violence, to assess the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of community members, and to analyze the assessment results.	Local CCR/SART teams will submit forum plans to ORPE for review and/or technical assistance as they prepare to host the forums in their areas.
Local CCR/SART teams will plan a community forum on preventing first time perpetration of DV and/or SA..	Ongoing	Communities will have well-organized and effective forums which assess, educate and engage their community members.	Local CCR/SART teams will submit forum plans to ORPE for review and/or technical assistance as they prepare to host the forums in their areas.
Local CCR/SART teams will conduct a community forum on preventing first time perpetration of SA and DV	Ongoing	CCR/SART team will have an enhanced understanding of the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors which may condone, perpetuate or combat violence against women. Community members will have increased participation in primary prevention.	Assessment results will be submitted to ORPE. Local CCR/SART Coordinators will report to ORPE the number of new volunteers who are engaged in prevention work as a result of the forums.
NCCASA SANE Consultant will work with local CCR/SART teams and local healthcare providers to establish and/or strengthen ORPE programs.	Ongoing	Numbers of survivors who are served by ORPE programs will increase in communities served by the ORPE Consultant.	Numbers of survivors who are served by ORPE programs will increase in communities served by the ORPE Consultant. Existing ORPE programs will be asked to submit baseline and

		Existing ORPE programs will be asked to submit baseline and post-project service numbers for people served through ORPE project	post-project service numbers for people served through SANE project
Local CCR/SART teams will hold a forum and follow-up meetings for community members interested in developing/engaging in prevention efforts.		Increased community capacity to prevent SA and DV. Communities will develop a list of focus areas for primary prevention efforts in their areas	Local CCR/SART Coordinators will submit to ORPE reports on post-forum activities including focus areas identified and any preliminary action steps identified.

**VI. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS**

Training and Technical Assistance Needs: Our project specialists/advocates will participate in the OVCTTAC Victim Assistance online training. In our rural area, online training is a valuable tool for increasing skills and knowledge of staff. We also will encourage our project staff to apply for the Leadership Institute at the National Victim Assistance Academy. We may request TA for developing our resource survey for local victims’ services to assess what services are currently available in our community. Under the LAV grant, ORPE Advocacy will be providing training to recipients’ victim services providers that are also grantee partners, legal services providers that are also grantee partners, pro bono attorneys, and community groups. Other individuals and agencies that will be receiving training are victim services providers that are not formal partners on the LAV grant project: law students; criminal justice officials (judges, police, etc.). Project will also use LAV resources to create products. Products include training/resource materials and marketing brochures. Training Curriculum and Evaluations will focus on building, structuring and securing Leadership for Coordinated Community Response and Sexual Assault Response Teams; Engaging Underserved Communities in Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women; Raising Community Awareness and Engagement about Violence Against Women; Community Stakeholder Assessment Tool; Toolkit for Hosting a Community Forum About Violence Against Women; Community Attitudes, Norms and Beliefs About Violence Against Women Assessment Tool; and Local Inter-Agency Referral and Service Protocols.

**VII. INTENDED OUTPUTS (Products)**

**1) Projected number of individuals expected to receive services based on presenting victimizations during the reporting period (Caseloads)**

To limit the potential caseload or make sure resources were reserved for the neediest cases, we have implemented guidelines based on income eligibility criteria. However, our eligibility guidelines are generally flexible, especially when the victim needs an emergency protection order and the abuser is represented by counsel.

Victimization Type	Numbers		
	(11/21-11/22)	(11/22-22/23)	(11/23-1124)
Adult Sexual Assault and Rape	92	94	81
Domestic Violence	97	112	88
Victims of Human Trafficking	41	40	38
Teen Dating Victimization	34	39	32
Stalking / Harassment	39	40	18
Child Abuse/Neglect	24	26	21
Violation of a Court (Protective) Order	12	12	13
Asylum seekers / Refugees	42	46	48
Immigrant victims' relief under U-Visa; T-visa ; VAWA	38	48	44
Housing, Emergency Shelter, Eviction Prevention	68	69	57
Victims seeking help for food, cash assistance, transportation	67	66	60
Victims assistance - Civil Matters (divorce, custody, adoption,...)	122	124	120
Victims seeking help in Opioid detox as a result from victimization	49	50	36
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Within this project, we expect providing legal representation in court to an average of 120 domestic violence victims per year. Much larger number of victims expected to be provided with legal advice and counseling. Our previsions forecast ORPE Advocacy will be providing legal services to more than 300 victims from October 2021 to October 2022 (representing the 1<sup>st</sup> year of funding). We project handle the following victims' legal cases:

Type of Cases	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
	(11/21-11/22)	(11/22-11/23)	(11/23-11/24)
	No of Cases	No of Cases	No of Cases
Temporary/ <i>ex part</i> Orders	92	122	90
Permanent Protection Orders	97	132	86
Child Custody	67.0	77	62
Child Support	22	33	20
Divorce	96	122	118
Immigration	120	130	140
Credit repair	48	68	70
Eviction Prevention	87	89	101
<b>TOTAL</b>			

We project to assist about 133 victims with a victim compensation application through this project. The tables below indicate the numbers of victims expected to be served annually:

**2) Projected No of people expected to receive information referral services through this project**

Victimization Type	Number
Information about the criminal justice process	188
Information about the victims' rights; about how to obtain notification	110
Referral to other victim service programs	88
Referral to other services, supports, resources including legal, medical, faith-based.	67

All information received from clients are protected and will be treated in confidentiality mode.

**3) Projected number of people expected to receive Personal Advocacy / Accompaniment service annually through this project.**

Victimization Type	Number
Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	33
Credible fear of persecution interview	49
Reasonable fear of persecution interview	38
Master Calendar Hearing (In Removal Proceedings)	38
Interview before immigration officer (U-visas; T-visas)	22
Interpreter services	89

**4) Projected number of individuals who will receive Criminal / Civil Justice Services Assistance annually through this project:**

Victimization Type	Number
Notification of criminal justice events <i>(Case status, arrest, court proceedings, case deposition, release...)</i>	22
Victim impact statement	21
Prosecution interview advocacy / accompaniment <i>(includes accompaniment with the prosecuting attorney, and with victim/witness)</i>	20

**VIII. INTENDED OUTPUT (Results)**

After being served or assisted in resolving or reducing the impact of psychological and physical pains caused by their perpetrators, through this project, victims will be able to experience positive changes in their lives; particularly, in terms of personal safety, health, emotions, mind, body and spirit. In addition, through ORPE's self-sufficient income programs centered on the premises of self-efficacy, self-leadership, and capacity building; victims will be given with necessary tools susceptible to change their social economic



status from insufficient income to the status of self-sufficient income. These premises are expected to make great impact in their lives and in victims’ communities. After having accomplished the cycle of assistance, victims will be able to positively express the relevance of the assistances received through this project and testifying for positive outcomes, with outcomes’ statements similar to those stated below:

**1) Positive Outcomes as a Result of the Services Provided through this Project**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Client’s statement</b>
Victims will be able to report that their sense of safety and security has increased.	<i>“My immediate sense of safety and security has increased as a result of the services I received from ORPE.”</i>
Victims will be able to report an increase in knowledge about victims’ services.	<i>“I am more knowledgeable about the community services and resources available to victims at ORPE Advocacy.”</i>
Client express satisfaction about the services	<i>“I am satisfied with the services I received through ORPE.”</i>
Victims will be able to report an increase in knowledge about the criminal justice system.	<i>“I am more knowledgeable about the criminal justice system.”</i>
Victims will be able to report an increased ability to plan for their safety.	<i>“I know more ways to plan for my safety.”</i>

**2) Decrease in Negative Effects Resulting from the Victimization**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Client’s statement</b>
Victims experience a decrease in the frequency and/or intensity of crime-related symptoms (change psychological functioning)	<i>“My crime-related symptoms (e.g. sleepless, fear or anxiety, nervousness, etc.) are less frequent or less severe since I became involved with ORPE Advocacy</i>
Victims express an understanding of their victimizations and its effect on their lives. Increase in knowledge about victimization	<i>“I now know how being a victim may affect important aspects of my life.”</i>
Victims report decrease in the level of vulnerability by identifying a support system.	<i>“I have identified a support system to help me address my victimization.” (e.g. decrease in isolation...).</i>
Victims report that their quality of life have improved because the set goals have been accomplished	<i>“ORPE Advocacy helped me achieve the goals I set out to accomplish.”</i>

**VIII. WHO WILL IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT?**

Orpe Human Rights Advocates in partnership with the Summit Ministry is the implementing entity. Exist a MOU between the two partners. The University of Maryland, Baltimore Washington Medical Center has committed support to this project (See attached letter of support). ORPE is aspired of becoming one of the advocacy entities in Maryland focused on the defense of the principle of “Equal Access to Justice” by providing free legal assistance to victims of crimes, victims of human rights abuses, low-incomes and veterans. ORPE’s core services include LAV

of DV, SA, Child abuse/neglect and victims of Human Trafficking. It also provides capacity building (legal and litigation skills training), and public policy advocacy. ORPE facilitates a wide array of statewide trainings aimed at increasing multiple systemic responses to DV and the skills of DV service provider staff and allied professionals. While its key implementers have more than 20 years helping victims of crimes, ORPE is a young entity organized in 2017 to address the issues surrounding around the insufficiency of Legal Services for low-incomes, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and immigrants, and refugees. ORPE also facilitates a biennial statewide conference with over 140 participants, including domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, law enforcement, nurses, campus administrators and other allied professionals. ORPE also provides an array of supportive services including Shelter services for crime victims, immigration services, policy advocacy and community education for its member programs and allied professionals. All local agencies are dual DV and SA programs. As such they all provide comprehensive and consistent services to adult and child victims. All have collaborative partners within their respective communities. These partnerships include law enforcement, the court, Grassroots Shelter of Howard County, Summit Ministry which is a faith-based organization, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Washington Medical Center; John Hopkins Hospital, the Departments of Social Services, the hospitals and health care services as well as other important key community stakeholders project.

**Key personnel in this project:**

Dr. Robert Fletcher is the Chair of the organization. Robert Fletcher has a PhD in Theology. He is a Senior Pastor for more than 30 years. He is the Senior Pastor of Summer Ministry Center. He has been working with victims of crimes, individuals with substance abuse disorders (SUD) for more than 20 years. The ORPE Advocacy Chief Operational Officer (COO) is Miss. Debra Suzanne Grace. The COO has extensively worked as Executive Director at the Summit for over 20 years. As a Senior Pastor and Advocate, Debra has been working in the violence against women programs designated to end SA and DV for the past 13 years. She serves on various boards and committees, and was recently one of the leader of Project Mom administered within the auspice of the Governor of Maryland. The ORPE Advocacy **Legal Chief Legal Staff (CLS)** is Edward- T Moises. Mr. Moises is a lawyer who has more than 10 years of legal practice experience. He graduated in 2005 from Beasley School of Law at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. He holds (JD,

and LLM) degrees. He is a well-trained trial lawyer. He worked for more than 10 years with the Law Firm Fremaux. He also worked as Counsel at the Office of Public Defender Melissa Douglas, Alexandria District Court, Virginia. The **ORPE Financial Coordinator** is Miss Zora Emilio. Zora Emilio holds an Executive Master in finance from the United States Institute of Leadership. She has over 4 years of experience with nonprofits in the finance and administrative arenas. Under this project the Financial Coordinator will ensure that all cost reports are completed and submitted in a timely manner; that all partners submit accurate and complete requests from ORPE Advocacy and that all appropriate financial reports and accounting practices are observed. Primary duties with ORPE include accounts payable and receivable, financial grant reporting to government agencies and other funders, implementation and oversight of administrative policies and procedures and human resource management, including payroll and related benefits. **The Shelter** is managed by **Pastor Suzy Fletcher**. Pastor Suzy ensures the Shelter is on track in completing its mission and informs the ORPE Advocate board of directors on the condition of the shelter. Pastor Suzy is in charge of official records and documents and ensures the shelter complies with federal, state and local laws. She keeps updated on new trends and industry information and oversees the recruitment of other employees and volunteers. Miss Lindsey Kyles, is the **Victim Witness Coordinator**. She is a well-trained advocate who holds a Master degree in human services and communication. As Victim Witness Coordinator, she reports to the Chief Legal Staff and offers support services and liaise with prosecutor, court systems, victim preparation and responding to the needs of victims.

## **DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION**

Program evaluation will consist of data collected by the project specialist as they provide services to victims and work with the community. We will collect data using our current case management software, regarding the number MDTs held, cases staffed, service plans created, service plans completed, victimization rates and the actual services accessed by victims. We will also collect data on crime victims, including age, type of crime and disability status to evaluate if our targeted outreach services were effective. The data will be collected using our case management software and other case management tools such as file reviews. A successful project is defined by an increase in service knowledge and acquisition for victims, completed service plans, low victimization rates and identifying if children and elders were the majority of our clients.

## **IX. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES / LEVERAGE RESOURCES**

ORPE Community and Family Services has a number of collaborative partnerships, both internal and external that will be used to leverage resources to continue this project after the end of the grant period. Internally, we will collaborate with our newly shelter program, our DV/SA program, our existing social service programs, housing, and our Restoring Human Dignity program. We've also put in place a cutting-edged fundraising mechanisms. Externally, we have strong partnerships with University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center; DHHS and DHS, the main providers of services to children and elders in our local area. ORPE Advocacy has just started implementation of a multidisciplinary crime victims program. In three years, our program will be in full implementation and a successful grant project will have completed the planning and its implementation. With the framework in place and Maryland Community already taking place, the ORPE Advocacy along with our local social service agencies can continue the work that started by the grant project.

## **X. PLAN TO RENIEW PROGRAM**

Our project creates a Multi-disciplinary team that while present in Maryland, it does not cross the jurisdictional boundaries of the borders nor does it serve all counties. The multidisciplinary dimension of the project, along with victim advocates, will increase access to services to crime victims and their families. Our project will utilize services and collaborations that are already in place, such as the connection between social services and county/state social services. We already jointly respond and staff child abuse dependent adult abuse referrals. Law enforcement and the district attorney's office have a process for communicating regarding crime investigation and prosecution. What we lack is a process that creates lines of communication between the silos of existing services. Social Services and law enforcement struggle to share information, victims' service agencies are often not in the loop with the district attorney's office, the district attorney's office is not in communication with social services. The data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Dept. of Health and Human Services and Maryland Dept. of Social Services supports our Legal Assistance Services program.