



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR ERNIE OTTEN, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DERBY, CO-CHAIR

March 31, 2025
Robert Perry, Secretary
Department of Public Safety
118 W Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Victim Services Grants (HB 1221)

Dear Secretary Perry,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2025 legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on March 31, 2025.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of legislative-executive relationships in South Dakota, and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

HB 1221 (2025) appropriated \$5 million from the general fund to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide grants to nonprofit organizations assisting:

- Children who have been abused and neglected;
- Victims of domestic violence;
- Victims of sexual assault;
- Victims of commercial sexual exploitation; or
- Victims of human trafficking.

Recipients may use the grants for emergency and transitional services; counseling services; support of a crisis line; case management and facility staffing needs; training, certification, and employment of a sexual assault nurse examiner; and services provided through a child advocacy center. Grants may not be used to establish a new program or organization or to provide legal services. DPS may award grants for any request not receiving full funding from any state agency, considering the financial situation of each applicant and prioritizing awards to those who demonstrate a financial need for providing the services listed.

JCA requests DPS provide a report by November 1 each year, until the appropriation is fully expended or reverted, covering information on the grants provided to victim services organizations, including the following for each request:

- The name and physical address of the requestor;
- The total amount requested;

- The amount requested for each service to be provided;
- The amount expected to be received from other state agencies;
- The total amount granted to each requestor;
- The amount granted for each service to be provided; and
- The number of victims served using the amount received.

JCA also requests copies of all documents created and used by DPS for 1) the application process, including the application itself and any rubric or other materials created for deciding how grants are provided, and 2) the oversight process, including all materials created for either approving reimbursements or confirming expenses are for eligible uses.

Finally, JCA requests DPS provide documentation on how much each requestor spent of their award, and how much DPS spent for administrative services, over the previous fiscal year.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/s/ ERNIE OTTEN

Senator Ernie Otten
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

/s/ MIKE DERBY

Representative Mike Derby
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Russell Olson, Auditor General
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management