

**Austin Travis County Victim Services Task Force
Criteria for Providing Letters of Support for Funding and Request for Endorsements**

I. Letters of Support for Funding Applications

Formal letters of support may be issued by this task force as a way of supporting the agencies that seek funding to improve the overall delivery of victim services in Travis County. In order for an organization to receive a letter of support, the following criteria must be met:

- A. The applicant organization must be a member of good standing of the Austin Travis County Victim Services Task Force.
 - o Be a current General or Steering Committee member
 - o Attend at least 50% of Task Force meetings in a year
 - o Attend Annual Meeting

- B. The need stated in the application must correspond with the goals of the task force, be identified as a need by the task force, or correspond with the goals and needs addressed in the most recent copy of the Austin Travis County Victim Services Assessment.
 - a. Funds sought must be used to serve (at least in part) victims of violent crimes, as defined in the Victims of Violent Crime Assessment
 - b. Proposal should improve service delivery system, fill a need or gap and not duplicate services

Letters of Support will not be issued if the above criteria are not met. Organizations that request a letter of support will submit the request to the Executive Committee. Those who are denied may appeal to the Victims Services Steering Committee.

- Request must be accompanied by a copy of the application for funding

II. Request for Endorsements of Specific Initiatives, Legislation or Campaigns

The Victim Services Task Force will not provide an endorsement for specific initiatives or campaigns. However, if the endorsement request corresponds with the mission and goals of the Task Force, the information regarding the request will be given to the general membership with the understanding that each individual agency may or may not choose to support the endorsement. The Executive Committee will determine if the request corresponds with the mission and goals of the Task Force and will be responsible for disseminating the information to the general membership as appropriate.