

## *Victim Services Preproposal Teleconference Summary*

On February 19, 2015 a preproposal teleconference was held at approximately 11 AM. There were some technical difficulties in establishing the phone line, and a phone connection was not established until approximately 11:23; however, no substantive discussion had yet taken place.

The Victim Services RFP was reviewed in its entirety, with pauses for comments and/or discussion. There were only two substantive issues that were raised, both of which will be summarized here. They are:

- **Prevention**, and the concern that applicants would not be able to take advantage of the full potential of 25 points, due to inadequate staffing and/or funding.
- **Improve Staff Retention**, and that it offered a potential of 5 points. Some potential applicants felt that they were at a disadvantage, as some have already implemented such procedures while others have not.

**Prevention** was by far the lengthier conversation, since it consists of 25 of the potential 100 points. One potential applicant stated that she is under a mandate from her Board to protect what they consider to be essential services, such as crisis intervention and emergency shelter. There was general consensus that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to expand Prevention services when there is concern over the possibility that the existing level of funding may be flat, or even worse, reduced. No one suggested that prevention efforts were not important or relevant: the discussion was more along the lines of where Prevention stood in the order of funding priorities.

It was also pointed out that the **Prevention** points also consist of two other important issues: Education and Coordination.

The following clarifying language will be added to the RFP: *While the Council advocates for, and promotes prevention efforts, it acknowledges that due to funding and/or staff limitations that it may not be practical and/or fiscally responsible for an applicant to propose all of the services that they desire to provide. Therefore, prevention plans will be not scored by the number and types of services to be provided, but solely on the **appropriateness** of those services, based on the resources that are available and the needs of the community.*

**Improve Staff Retention** was a shorter conversation. The general consensus of the group was that such a move was needed and that some are already engaged in such activities while others are not. The intent of the Council was to encourage all to participate in such practices, and the amount of points involved was negligible, and was unlikely to adversely affect any applicant if they had not yet engaged in such activities. No change was made to this section.