



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Grant Will Help Unite Domestic Violence Services

TAMPA - A program to help family violence victims in Hillsborough County has received a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The purpose of the pilot program will be to centralize services for victims. Currently, victims of domestic violence must go to several locations when they need a protection order, to talk with a victims' advocate or meet with a prosecutor, Justice Department officials said in the written announcement.

The grant will help create a center to unite nonprofit domestic violence victims' services groups, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers, medical professionals, chaplains and civil lawyers.

Coupled with the \$1.1 million grant is a \$150,000 grant for Bay Area Legal Services, which provides legal advice to low-income residents who cannot afford a lawyer.

The grants are part of the Family Justice Center Initiative started in October.

Hillsborough is one of 15 communities nationally that will start similar pilot programs.

Tampa Tribune, July 2004