



City of Cleveland ARPA Proposal Summary

Organization:

Canopy Child Advocacy Center (Canopy)

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Project Summary

Suggested ARPA Focus Area(s): Support public health expenditures and Address Negative Economic Impacts Caused by Public Health Emergency

Requested Amount: \$500,000.00 **Project Period:** October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024

Canopy Background: In 2014, the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center (now named Journey Center for Safety and Healing) and community partners worked tirelessly to bring a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to Cuyahoga County, Ohio. With a planning grant from United Way and capital grants from The Cleveland Foundation and Higley Fund, Canopy opened its doors in November 2018 at a newly built-out facility on the Journey Center campus. Canopy was able to obtain the participation of the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP), Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, FrontLine Service, and medical providers to operate in a coordinated and accessible manner. In January 2021, Canopy obtained 501 (c) (3) status in the state of Ohio. The mission of Canopy is to serve children and families affected by child abuse through a multi-disciplinary partnership focused on safety, healing, and well-being. Canopy envisions a community where children are safe, families are resilient, and those affected by child abuse are empowered to heal and thrive.

Problem Statement: Canopy serves children that are abused or at risk of abuse and victims of human trafficking up to age 21 years. Over half of these children are African American and under one quarter Caucasian with the dominant age group 7-12 at 51%. In the past 3.5 years, 70% of those served at Canopy reside in the City of Cleveland. Residents from all wards have been served, with the largest number of referrals residing in the Hough, Slavic Village, and Central neighborhoods. The CDP is a founding member of Canopy, with leadership from the Bureau of Special Investigations serving on the Canopy Supervisory Multidisciplinary Team, Advisory Committee, and Board of Directors. Detectives

from the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit are on site at the center 74% of the time the center is open for operations.

Abused children are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, delinquency, academic problems, drug/alcohol abuse, suicide attempts, and hyper-sexualized behavior. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research shows there are significant long-term impacts such as chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. According to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, child sexual abuse is a pervasive public safety and public health issue. Child abuse also has an economic and public safety impact. For instance, the estimated lifetime burden of child sexual abuse is \$210,000 per victim. This includes costs related to medical and mental health care, criminal justice response, and lost productivity. Also the vast majority of those who sexually abuse children remain free to continue to victimize others.

Throughout the pandemic, Canopy remained open as an essential organization and vital resource to victims of child abuse. Though numbers of reports of child abuse decreased due to the isolation of families, knowledge of the abuse many children were likely experiencing was going underreported. The delay in addressing these pressing needs further traumatized children and resulted in more significant needs that are now becoming apparent. In the fall of 2019, Canopy suffered from extensive federal funding cuts and just as attempts were being made to recuperate losses, the COVID-19 pandemic began unraveling. Much attention became focused on responding to the emergency safety aspects of COVID-19 and less was able to be provided and accessed to support ongoing needs of Canopy. Also, when Canopy separated from Journey and became a 501c3 nonprofit organization in January 2021, the ability to fundraise as quickly and efficiently as necessary was significantly delayed due to not having the ability to market the organization to the funding community face to face and philanthropic funds were focused on ensuring emergency safety survival during the pandemic.

Key Services: Based on a national best practice model, Canopy provides forensic interviews, medical and mental health services, victim advocacy, law enforcement and prosecution support, Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) case review, and case tracking. The menu of potential services is customized to meet the specific needs of the children and families served. More than just a child and family friendly physical space, Canopy functions as an interagency response hub that manages and coordinates service providers to ensure timely, relevant, and high-quality service delivery. Canopy's interventions adhere to best practices and strive to minimize further trauma of children served. Canopy and all partner agencies sign an MOU that defines their roles and responsibilities. A summary of services follows:

Canopy Child Advocacy Center - A comprehensive multidisciplinary, developmentally and culturally appropriate, evidence-based response to the needs of children and their families, Canopy provides a setting that is comfortable, private, and physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their non-offending family members.

Forensic Interviews and Coordinated Case Management - Children explain what happened to them one time, in a safe setting with a trauma-informed trained professional. From the other room, Canopy's MDT collectively assess the child's medical, emotional, and mental health needs and make decisions together

about how to best support the child based on the outcome of the forensic interview. Simultaneously, law enforcement is able to gather evidence needed to prosecute alleged perpetrators without having to conduct separate interviews. Multidisciplinary team meetings, case reviews, and case tracking are provided throughout service provision.

Medical and Mental Health Treatment and Victim Advocacy – Specialized medical evaluation and treatment, evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services, designed to meet the unique needs of the child and caregivers, victim support and advocacy services.

Prosecution - Law enforcement and/or prosecution are responsible for obtaining and determining adequacy of evidence to sustain an adjudication, observing interviews, preparation of parties for hearings, and participation in MDT meetings.

Cross-Disciplinary and Cross-Cultural Training - Canopy provides continuing education opportunities to enhance professional practice.

Canopy ARPA Project Summary: Funding from the City of Cleveland American Rescue Plan will sustain selected operating expenses of Canopy that are critical to respond to the unique challenges of children that have experienced abuse during the pandemic. Coupled with other funding, City of Cleveland ARPA funding will enable Canopy to serve approximately 1200 abused children during the project period. This funding would ensure provision of services to at least 840 children and families residing in Cleveland experiencing family violence by securing behavioral health and other critical wrap around services for them, decreasing the amount of traumatization that they currently endure, and improving the public health of the Cleveland community through shared accountability and interventions for those offending against children. Funding will also be utilized to enhance the sustainability of the organization, through one-time financial support of experts that will focus on garnering a vast array of financial sources that will support the organizational infrastructure, improvement in the data collection and evaluation system in order to document outcomes, and facility enhancement and expansion planning.

The specific goals of the Canopy ARPA project and measurements of success are as follows:

1. **Provide an accessible and child-friendly environment.** Measurements of success: 1) Identify the need for and obtain additional child-friendly furniture, toys, supplies, equipment, etc.; 2) Retain a real estate firm to develop a plan that will guide Canopy through complex and important facility expansion decisions that support an increasing service population.
2. **Ensure administrative services support efficient and effective operations.** Measurements of success: 1) An updated management information system that expands and enhances Canopy's ability to evaluate the provision of services and outcomes with on-going reporting; 2) Identify and obtain sustainable resources that serve an expanded number of child abuse victims and their families in the City of Cleveland.
3. **Coordinate a highly skilled multidisciplinary team that provides culturally relevant and trauma-informed legal/forensic, health, mental health, victim advocacy, and case management services to child abuse victims in the City of Cleveland.** Measurements of success: 1) Provision of services to an increased number of child abuse victims; 2) Continued

commitment of existing agencies and new agencies added to the Canopy partnership; 3) Positive assessments from child abuse victims and their family members on services provided.

Budget Summary: Proposed Funding for \$500,000.00 (Year 1: \$328,550.51; Year 2: \$171,449.49)

Expenses	Year 1	Year 2
Personnel	\$236,102.04	\$105,541.30
Equipment/Technology	\$23,178.24	\$3,500.00
Occupancy/Rent	\$15,452.00	\$6,125.90
Program/Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Training/Subscriptions	\$8,300.00	\$3,000.00
Professional Fees	\$9,150.00	\$1,075.00
Marketing/Advertising	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00
Furniture & Capital Improvement		\$7,620.97
Consultant		\$25,000.00
Overhead	\$29,868.23	\$15,586.32
GRAND TOTAL	\$328,550.51	\$171,449.49

- Provision of Coordinated, Trauma-Focused, Evidence-Based Direct Services:** Yr 1: Portions of salaries/benefits of staff, for an equivalent of 2 FTE's \$113,105.23. Yr 2: \$3,000 PRN personnel to assist with expanding operating hours to serve more children in need. Canopy will provide some services and contract for others. Other Expenses include equipment/technology such as cell phones for client communication; upgrades to medical Cortexflo utilized for sexual assault examination, to current Canopy database utilized to track client information, to recording equipment used for forensic interviews; mileage to assist with reaching clients in the community and eliminating transportation barriers; a portion occupancy and rent to ensure ability to have child friendly, trauma informed location to provide services to victims of abuse; program and office supplies such as legal pads, pens, folders, postage; training and subscriptions to online learning series/professional organizations to ensure access to education for staff and partners (Yr 1: \$47,930.24, Yr 2: \$13,125.90)
- Administration, Quality Assurance, and Data Management:** Yr 1: Portions of salaries/benefits of 3 staff \$122,996.81 (equivalent 1.65 FTEs); Yr 2: \$97,036 (1.5 FTEs). Other Expenses include professional fees necessary to managing this grant and the organization in a secure manner such as payroll and new hire fees, legal fees, and auditing fees; Marketing/advertising funding to assist with increasing awareness in the community about child abuse and resources provided through Canopy; and administrative overhead that provides human resource support and finance services to ensure successful administration of these funds. (Yr 1: \$44,518.23, Yr 2:\$52,782.29). Year 2 includes funding for consultant to identify facility expansion needs and identify plan for implementation.