

FILE NO. 1340-2023-A

2023 VAWA  
SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCATE



## Department of Public Safety and Justice Services

### Subgrant Application Title Page

<b>Subgrantee Name</b>	City of Cleveland, Division of Police				
<b>Program Area</b>	VA 2 - Enhance Efforts (Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault)				
<b>Title of Project</b> 35 Character Maximum	Cleveland Sexual Assault Advocate				
<b>Project Period</b>	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024				
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$75,403.21				
<b>Main Contact</b>	Prefix Ms	First Name Dawn	MI	Last Name Heartsong	Suffix
	Title Grants Coordinator		Agency Cleveland Dept. of Public Safety		
	Address 1300 Ontario St		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
	Phone 216-623-5126		Fax 216-623-5853		
<b>Organizational Leader</b>	Prefix Mr	First Name Dornat	MI A	Last Name Drummond	Suffix
	Title Chief		Agency Cleveland Division of Police		
	Address 1300 Ontario Street		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
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**Office of Criminal Justice Services  
Detailed Budget Application**

Subgrant Number:

**PART A - BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE**

	Amount	Percentage %
OCJS Funds Requested:	56,552.41	75.00%
Cash Match	18,850.80	25.00%
In-Kind Match	0.00	0.00%
Total Project Budget:	75,403.21	100.00%

Identify the Source of Match:

**PART B - BUDGET REQUEST BY COST CATEGORY**

Please note that both the OCJS & matching costs are to be included in following sections.

**Section 1 - Personnel Costs**

*Salaries and Personnel*

Name/ Vacant	Title	No. Hrs.	Hrly Rate	Total
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
<b>Salary Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>

*Employer's Share of Fringe Benefits:*

Fringe Benefits	Rate (%)	Total Yearly Wages	Total Cost
PERS (government agencies)		\$0.00	\$0.00
FICA (private agencies)		\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement (private agencies)		\$0.00	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation		\$0.00	\$0.00
Unemployment Comp. (Max 2.00% on first \$9,000*)		\$0.00	\$0.00
Medicare		\$0.00	\$0.00
Health Insurance			
Fill in the formula: \$ _____ (Monthly Rate) x _____ (# Months) x _____ (FTE)			0.00
<b>Fringe Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

\* Note this is the first \$9,000 of the Salary Subtotal.

**Section 1 - Personnel Total:**

**Narrative Required:** Provide justification for each position: list job duties.

**Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts**

Name	Hourly Fee	Hours	Total
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center - Victim Advocate	35	2080	\$72,800.00
			\$0.00

**Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts Total:** \$72,800.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.

The city of Cleveland will enter into a contract with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC). CRCC will provide a full-time victim advocate who will be assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police to work with victims of sexual assault. In addition to victim advocate, CRCC will use funding for cell phones and office supplies.

**Section 3 - Travel**

A. Auto	No. Miles	Per Mile	Total
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00

B. Commercial	Destination	Fare	Total
		0	\$0.00
		0	\$0.00

C. Per Diem: (Meal & Lodging Only)	No. of days	Rate	Total
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00

D. Other (Specify):	No. Items	Rate	Total
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00

**Section 3 - Travel Total** \$0.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for travel. Costs must relate to the project staff & objectives.

**Section 4- Equipment**

Item(s) Being Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00

**Section 4 - Equipment Total** \$0.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the equipment requested.

**Section 5 - Supplies**

List of Items to be Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Office Supplies	1	525	\$525.00
Laptop Computer	1	818.21	\$818.21
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00
	0	0	\$0.00

**Section 5- Supplies Total** \$1,343.21

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the supplies; provide allocation method.

The city of Cleveland will enter into a contract with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC). CRCC will provide a full-time victim advocate who will be assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police to work with victims of sexual assault. In addition to the victim advocate, CRCC will use funding for office supplies for the advocate. This will include pens, notebooks, printer ink, paper, etc.. They will also purchase a coputer for the advocate.

**Section 6 - Other Costs**

Other Charges	Cost	Terms	Total
Rent-Facilities	0	0	\$0.00
Cost of Ownership	0	0	\$0.00
Telephone	105	12	\$1,260.00
Utilities	0	0	\$0.00
Bookkeeping/Audit	0	0	\$0.00
Maintenance	0	0	\$0.00
Clerical	0	0	\$0.00
Auto Lease/ST Rental	0	0	\$0.00
Equipment Lease/ST Rental	0	0	\$0.00
Photocopying	0	0	\$0.00
Printing	0	0	\$0.00
Other (Specify)	0	0	\$0.00
Other (Specify)	0	0	\$0.00
Other (Specify)	0	0	\$0.00

**Section 6 - Other Costs Total** \$1,260.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for other costs: provide allocation methods where appropriate. provide a full-time victim advocate who will be assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police to work with victims of sexual assault. In addition to victim advocates, CRCC will use funding for a cell phone for the advocate.

**Section 7 - Confidential Funds (Applies to Drug Task Force Projects Only)**

Implementing Agency Confidential Funds	Total
0	\$0.00

**Section 7- Confidential Fund Total** \$0.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Confidential Funds.

**Section 8 - Indirect Costs**

Amount of Direct Costs Less Equipment	Percent 0 to 10%	Total
0	0.00%	\$0.00

**Section 8 - Indirect Cost Total** \$0.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Indirect Cost: attach a copy of your federally approved plan.

**PART C- BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE & COST CATEGORY**

	1. Matching Funds		2. OCJS Funds	3. Total
	Cash	Inkind		
1. Personnel				\$0.00
2. Consultant/Contracts	\$18,200.00		\$54,600.00	\$72,800.00
3. Travel				\$0.00
4. Equipment				\$0.00
5. Supplies	\$335.80		\$1,007.41	\$1,343.21
6. Other Costs	\$315.00		\$945.00	\$1,260.00
7. Confidential Funds				\$0.00
8. Indirect Cost				\$0.00
9. Total Project Budget	\$18,850.80		\$56,552.41	\$75,403.21

Narrative: Federal, State and Local Funding Sources-please provide information on funding that is received by your Agency that is relevant to this project applied for. Include the source, amount received, and year funds were awarded.

The city of Cleveland received a FY22 VAWA grant for \$40,868.90

Do you have other funding resources not identified above?

Yes	No
X	

Prepared by: Name and Title  
 Dawn Heartsong, Grants Coordinator

Date:  
 9/22/2023



Revised 09/2003

**Cleveland Division of Police – Cleveland Sexual Assault Advocate**

**Narrative**

**Problem Statement/Underserved Population:**

The city of Cleveland is requesting continuation funding under Program Area VA 2 – Enhancement Efforts to maintain a victim advocate assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police to assist the victims of sexual assault.

Nature and Scope of Problem: Sexual violence remains a predominant issue in today’s society and negatively impacts thousands of individuals in our community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that one in five women in the United States have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime (Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 data brief – updated release. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)

In the ten year period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2022, the city of Cleveland has had 5,310 reported rapes. That is an average of 531 rapes per year. The number for each of the years is in chart 1 below:

**Chart 1: Rape Cases from 2013 – 2022:**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rapes	539	507	559	542	550	585	596	501	567	544

Source: Cleveland Police Crime Analysis Unit, 2023

Because rape/sexual assault is the most unreported crime, the actual number of rapes is significantly higher than the statistics above. The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) receives over 7,800 calls, texts, and chats on its 24-hour crisis hotlines annually.



Following the Imperial Avenue tragedy in 2010, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson appointed a Special Commission on Missing Persons and Sex Crimes Investigations. The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) and Cleveland Department of Public Safety participated in this initiative. As a result of this Special Commission, CRCC established a formal satellite location directly within the Cleveland Division of Police Sex Crime's Unit in addition to Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court and Prosecutor's Office. A dedicated advocate was available to provide support to victims Monday through Friday, 20 hours a week directly at Sex Crimes. We knew that 20 hours per week was not enough time to reach all victims, so a search commenced to find the funding to hire an advocate who would be assigned to the Division of Police on a full-time basis. With the award of a VAWA grant we were able to accomplish this. Now, in addition to advocates who are available part-time, there is a full-time advocate assigned to the Police Sex Crimes Unit. The advocates receive police reports daily within the unit and reach out to the victims to provide support, crisis intervention, information, education and support throughout the criminal justice process. The advocates accompany survivors and co-survivors to the Division of Police, hospitals, and court systems within Cuyahoga County to provide direct services. They provide direct support when the victims meet with the detectives in the Sex Crime and Child Abuse unit during their statements.

The work of the advocate is vital to the victims of sexual assault and there is a great need to maintain the number of advocates assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police. Since the recommendations were released by Mayor Jackson's Special Commission on Missing Persons and Sex Crimes Investigations, the city had been seeking a way to add a full-time advocate in addition to the part-time one that was assigned to the Division of Police. However, until we were awarded VAWA funding, the resources to fund this position had not been identified.

Consequences: The short-term consequence of the failure to fund this project is that many victims of sexual assault will not be reached by a victim advocate. The long-term consequence is that many of these victims will not receive the support they need to move forward with the healing process or the justice system.

Target Population: In order to better address the needs of victims of sexual assault, the city of Cleveland will contract with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) to continue to provide a full-time victim advocate to be assigned to the Cleveland Division of Police Sex Crimes Unit.

The project targets all victims of rape/sexual assault violence. Every police report of sexual assault is forwarded to the Sex Crimes Unit. The advocates will be provided with information from every report so contact can be made with every victim.

Existing Resources: As mentioned, since the recommendations were released by Mayor Jackson's Special Commission on Missing Persons and Sex Crimes Investigations, the city had been seeking a way to add a full-time advocate in addition to the part-time one that was assigned to the Division of Police. However, no other resources have been found to fund this position.

Underserved Population: Inner-city victims are underserved due to various factors such as underserved racial populations, educational background, economic situation, cultural or religious background, availability of transportation and housing other social concerns which are personal to each victim. Such personal circumstances often prevent the survivor from safely coming forward to utilize the legal and social services available. In Cleveland, an average of 53% of the victims of rape are African-American and 5% are Hispanic. Another underserved population is the hearing impaired community. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing face unique issues such as social isolation and lack of interpreters in the justice system. In order to assist

these underserved populations The Cleveland Police Sex Crimes Unit employs a diverse racial mix of staff, including those who speak Spanish. To assist the hearing impaired community, Cleveland Police has a contract for sign language interpreters and has sent two police supervisors to a national conference to learn about the special needs of these victims and how to aid them. In 2018 they received this same training to aid vision impaired victims.

**Project Description:**

Activities and Approach: The city of Cleveland will enter into a contract with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center for the continuing services of one full-time advocate who is assigned to the Cleveland Police Sex Crimes Unit. The advocate will be available during a variety of days and hours including nights and weekends. The advocate will receive a copy of the unit's police reports and reach out to the victims to provide support, crisis intervention, information, education and support throughout the criminal justice system. They will accompany survivors and co-survivors to hospitals, and court systems to provide direct services. They will provide direct, in-person support when the victims meet with the detectives in the Sex Crimes Unit during their statements. This fits into the state's 2022 implementation plan goal 1: Multidisciplinary and program specific projects will meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Evidence-Based and Fidelity: Inclusion of victim advocates is supported by the findings in a recent study, "Rape Survivors' Experiences with the Legal and Medical Systems: Do Rape Victim Advocates Make a Difference" by Dr. Rebecca Campbell which concluded "rape victim advocate...had a positive impact on the experiences of rape survivors with the legal and medical systems." Survivors who had the assistance of an advocate were significantly more likely to

have police reports taken and were less likely to be treated negatively by police officers. These women also reported less distress after their contact with the legal system. Similarly, survivors who worked with an advocate during their emergency department care received more medical services, including emergency contraception and sexually transmitted disease prophylaxis, reported significantly fewer negative interpersonal interactions with medical system personnel, and reported less distress from their medical contact experiences.

Many emergency rooms now have on call trained volunteers called sexual assault advocates whose job is “to protect a victim’s health and well-being and make sure her rights are respected,” the study stated. The advocate stays with the victim in the emergency room and, if needed, through the legal process. At each step, the advocate explains what is going to happen and why, what information is confidential and what is not, and which questions the victim does not have to answer. If legal action is pursued, “the advocate may be able to intercede so the victim won’t have to repeat the same story 20 different times,” the study said. The advocate must remain neutral, however, and support the victim’s decision whether to file a police report.

Human Trafficking: Cleveland is dedicated to supporting victims of Human Trafficking. Through our partnership with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, we now have an advocate imbedded at the Division of Police specifically to assist the victims of human trafficking. CRCC provides comprehensive services to victims through their Anti-Human Trafficking Program, which includes a Human Trafficking Drop-In Center to provide a safe daytime space for those seeking to escape their trafficked circumstances. We will ensure these victims receive the support and services they need.

**Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles:**

Long Term Sustainability: We will continue to promote the program and increase public awareness, particularly among our stakeholders so we in the best possible position for additional fundraising to sustain the program through local funding to support the position. For now, these grant funds are necessary to maintain the program.

Accomplishments/Continuation Programs: We are on track to meet the goals established in our FY22 application. The number of African-American and Hispanic sexual assault victims who have received access to community resource information will reach more than 630 by the end of 2023. We will have begun providing trauma informed trainings to police officers and CRCC advocates and will complete this by the end of 2023.

We do not have plans to expand the number of victim advocates assigned to the Cleveland Police Sex Crimes Unit. The number of advocates that are available is currently in balance with respect to the other rape-survivor service needs of the community.

As mentioned, we will continue to promote the program and increase public awareness, particularly among our stakeholders so we in the best possible position for additional fundraising to sustain the program through local funding to support the position. For now, these grant funds are necessary to maintain the program.

The advocate will receive continuing training on emerging trends regarding victim services, underserved populations and sexual assault directly from the CRCC. The detectives assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit will receive continuing training on emerging trends regarding victim services, underserved populations and sexual assault directly from annual in-service training and from the CRCC.

Obstacles: The only obstacle in the past was the COVID-19 related. The advocate needed to work from home for a time, but did continue to contact victims.

**Project Objectives**

<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Indicator</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline Number</u></b>
Increase by 5% the number of African-American and Hispanic sexual assault victims who have access to community resource information during the grant period.	The number of African-American and Hispanic sexual assault victims contacted by a victim advocate and provided with assistance in accessing community resource information	The baseline number is 600 based on the first six months of 2023. Approximately 630 African-American and Hispanic sexual assault victims will be provided with access to community resource info by the end of 2022
Provide 4 trauma informed trainings to police officers and advocates from Cleveland Police and the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center during the grant period	The number of trauma informed trainings provided to police officers and advocates from Cleveland Police and the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.	The baseline number is 4 based on 2022 and the first six months of 2023.

These objectives will help to achieve Goal 1 (Multidisciplinary, coordinated community response)/Objective 2 (coordination) and Goal 3 (address services)/Objective 2 (coordination) of the 2022 Implementation Plan.

Performance Data Collection: The victim advocate will maintain records on the number of African-American and Hispanic victims who are contacted by them and provided with assistance in accessing community resource information. The Division of Police and CRCC will maintain all records regarding the training offered to police officers and advocates. Data will be provided to the Cleveland grants coordinator on a monthly basis for grant reporting requirements. Both the Cleveland Division of Police and Cleveland Rape Crisis Center are well versed in the laws regarding confidentiality, and have rules and procedures in place to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of victims.

**Timeline and Activities**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Improve the Cleveland Division of Police’s ability to assist the victims of sexual assault	Increase by 5% the number of African-American and Hispanic sexual assault victims who have access to community resource information during the grant period.	Quickly replace any vacancies of victim advocates	Within one month of vacancy	CRCC
		Continuing training of advocates in assisting underserved victims of sexual assault	February, 2024	CRCC
		Victim contact information provided to victim advocates	Weekly	Sex Crimes Unit supervisor
		Advocate contacts sexual assault victims and offers support and information	Daily	CRCC advocates
		Continuing training of advocates in assisting underserved victims of sexual assault	August, 2024	CRCC
		Statistics provided to project director on the number of African-American and Hispanic victims who receive information on community resources	Quarterly	CRCC, Sex Crimes Unit
		Provide 4 trauma informed trainings to police officers and advocates from Cleveland Police and the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center during the grant period	Determine best trauma informed training to offer	January, 2024
	Develop curriculum for training		February, 2024	CRCC, Sex Crimes Unit, Police Academy
	Offer training to sex crimes unit officers and victim advocates		March, 2024	CRCC, Sex Crimes Unit, Police Academy
	Offer training to other officers and advocates		Quarterly	CRCC, Sex Crimes Unit, Police Academy

Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Completion Date	Responsible Party
		Statistics provided to project director on the number of trainings provided	Quarterly	CRCC, Sex Crimes Unit

**Organization and Staff Capacity:**

The Project Director for this grant will be the Public Safety Grants Coordinator who has over 26 years of experience successfully managing 30-40 comprehensive grant-funded programs annually. The Sexual Assault Advocate Project is a collaboration of the Cleveland Division of Police and Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center supports survivors of sexual violence, promotes healing and prevention and creates social change. Established in 1974, CRCC is the only organization in Northeast Ohio dedicated to supporting victims of sexual violence and their non-offending family members. Its mission is to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse, promote healing and prevention and advocate for social change. As an integral provider in Greater Cleveland's Health and Human Services safety net, CRCC reaches thousands of individuals each year through direct survivor services, professional training, and community-based outreach and prevention education. CRCC is the only agency in Cuyahoga County that meets the statewide Core Standards of sexual assault programming developed by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Ohio's statewide coalition for comprehensive rape crisis services. CRCC employs the current advocate assigned to the Cleveland Police Sex Crimes Unit.

The mission of the Cleveland Division of Police is “to enhance the quality of life, strengthen neighborhoods, and deliver superior services with professionalism, respect, integrity,



dedication, and excellence working in partnership with neighborhoods and communities.” The CPD is the lead law enforcement agency in Northern Ohio’s largest city.

Development Surrounding Cultural Competency: The diversity of Cleveland and the underserved victims is reflected in the detectives, and advocates who are part of the project. All members of the Division of Police and Cleveland Rape Crisis Center are provided with continuing training surrounding cultural, racial, legal, and socioeconomic issues from their respective organizations. All CRCC staff go through a rigorous 40-hr training along with comprehensive annual continuing education that covers a variety of topics regarding cultural humility and service provision to underserved groups.

**Collaboration Board:**

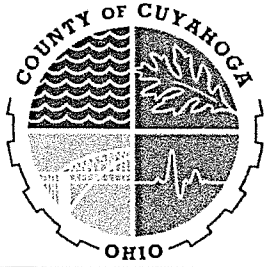
The Collaboration Board will include representatives from the Cleveland Division of Police, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, and the Cleveland Prosecutor’s Office. The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office is also invited and sends someone when they are available.

Meetings are held quarterly and meeting notifications are distributed via e-mail.

The Collaboration Board will review program data and discuss successes and any problems. They will work together to determine changes that could improve the project and provide advice on how to implement these changes.

2023 VAWA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – ENFORCEMENT



**Department of Public Safety and Justice Services**  
**Subgrant Application Title Page**

<b>Subgrantee Name</b>	City of Cleveland, Division of Police				
<b>Program Area</b>	VA 2 - Enhance Efforts (Law Enforcement)				
<b>Title of Project</b> 35 Character Maximum	Cleveland Domestic Violence Project				
<b>Project Period</b>	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024				
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$181,474.36				
<b>Main Contact</b>	Prefix Ms	First Name Dawn	MI	Last Name Heartsong	Suffix
	Title Grants Coordinator		Agency Cleveland Dept. of Public Safety		
	Address 1300 Ontario St		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
	Phone 216-623-5126		Fax 216-623-5853		
<b>Organizational Leader</b>	Prefix Mr	First Name Dornat	MI A	Last Name Drummond	Suffix
	Title Chief		Agency Cleveland Division of Police		
	Address 1300 Ontario Street		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
	Phone 216-623-5005		Fax 216-623-5853		

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<b>Quarterly Fiscal reporting will be done by:</b>	Name: Amy Hewett	Phone: 216-664-3735
<b>Email:</b>	AHewett@city.cleveland.oh.us	
<b>Quarterly Program reporting will be done by:</b>	Name: Dawn Heartsong	Phone: 216-623-5126
<b>Email:</b>	DHeartsong@city.cleveland.oh.us	

## **Cleveland Division of Police – Cleveland Domestic Violence Project - Narrative**

### **Problem Statement/Underserved Population:**

Cleveland is applying for funding, under Program Area VA 2: Enhancement Efforts, to continue and expand the successful Cleveland Domestic Violence Project, a vital partnership between Prosecutors from the Cleveland Law Department, Detectives from the Cleveland Division of Police and Victim Advocates from the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center. The collaboration between these departments has been an essential key in our efforts to reduce incidents of domestic violence in the City of Cleveland.

Nature and Scope of Problem: Cleveland is a diverse city with a population of approximately 367,991 people. Of that population a staggering 29% live in poverty. (2022 Census estimates). Cleveland also has the unfortunate distinction of being ranked amongst the most violent cities in the United States, according to the 2022 and prior years Universal Crime Reports statistics. According to Cleveland Police Radio, approximately 40% of all calls to 911 for assistance in the City of Cleveland are domestic violence complaints or other related crimes. In 2022, that amounted to 13,561 calls. The number of requests for police assistance not only emphasizes the need for a Domestic Violence Project in the City of Cleveland, but also shows that there is still more work to be done around this issue. Incidents of domestic violence play a significant role in the lives of the citizens in Cleveland and the effects of domestic violence impact all ethnic, racial and socio-economic groups.

Consequences: The Cleveland DV Project's impact on the community has been significant. Any loss of funding to this project would have adverse consequences for this community. The community would lose a virtual one-stop-shop of Advocates, Detectives and Prosecutors handling their police reports and court cases. The community would lose the

focused attention on domestic violence that is a direct result of the Cleveland DV Project. The need for the DV Project is even more important as we start to move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and create a new normal while recognizing and addressing the upheaval this significant event created in the areas of housing, employment, day care and education among other issues that affects victims of DV and their ability to report or leave an offender.

The second consequence of a loss of funding would be the City of Cleveland being forced to re-assign all or some of the Detectives who are currently assigned to the project. It would also require laying off some or all of the Prosecutors and Law Clerks who handle domestic violence cases for the Project. The short term consequence would be a dramatic reduction in the number of victims who could be served. The long term consequences could result in the end of the project as we know it and the loss of victim centered assistance surrounding domestic abuse. This would mean victims of domestic violence in Cleveland would be forced to traverse the criminal justice system alone without the assistances of any dedicated or specially trained staff to assist them in their most vulnerable time. This would result in fewer victims following through with prosecution, fewer successful convictions of DV perpetrators, and an increase in domestic violence incidents and more repeated incidents of abuse.

Target Population: The Cleveland DV Project serves female victims ages 18 and older who are victims of intimate partner violence. The project focuses on females who are the victims of abuse at the hands of their spouse or former spouse, a person they have a child(ren) with or a person they have cohabitated with in the last five years. This project also serves individuals in LGBTQIA+ relationships.

Historically, victims of domestic abuse have often been left to find their own way through a criminal justice system that at times can be confusing and overwhelming. Through a

collaborative approach, the Cleveland DV Project has brought together law enforcement, prosecution and advocacy to address domestic violence incidents and the needs of victims. In this community that means a victim is able to speak to a Detective and an Advocate in the same office not long after an incident has occurred, which results in victims not being jostled from one location to another. It also means that victims do not have to go to the Prosecutor's Office for charges. Dedicated Prosecutors review all police reports assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit and determine charges, if any. They also handle the reports that are charged in court. This project aspires to address the ever changing needs of women and men affected by DV.

Existing Resources: Cleveland currently pays more than 75% of the cost of operating the entire DV Project. This includes paying for 85% of the salaries and 100% of the benefits of the police officers assigned to the project, paying for police vehicles the officers use, and paying for nearly 75% of the salaries and 100% of the benefits of the prosecutors assigned to the project. The city does not have the additional resources to fund more of this program and needs this continuing grant to aid in keeping our focus on expanding the project.

Underserved Population: The needs of the residents of Cleveland are staggering. From issues such as employment, housing and education and then add in the effects of domestic abuse on a family it becomes clear that there is a need for the Domestic Violence Project. The issue of domestic violence in the Cleveland is impacted by poverty, race and ethnicity along with an under-educated and under-employed population. The future of this project means educational outreach in communities that address specific ethnic and cultural concerns that keep individuals from reporting crimes, following through with prosecution or just simply understanding that domestic abuse is not okay. It also means that this project will continue to reevaluate and respond to the changing needs of our victims in this community. Recent years have seen the

project servicing victims who live in our community originally from Nepal and a couple of African nations. Many of these victims had limited to no English proficiency. The Project will continue to improve our skills in working with all victims, but particularly those where English is not their first language and culturally, domestic abuse is not reported or discussed. The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative, which is led by the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center, has assisted the Cleveland Prosecutor's Office in a review of its language access policies. They developed a policy that includes additional staff training and securing interpreters for victims with limited or no English proficiency. The result is a more robust, coordinated response and formalized protocol when working with these victims. However, there is still outreach that is needed to engage the LGBTQIA+ community. Victims from this community are no different than victims from other communities, yet they face additional challenges due to lack of support systems, lack of education and lack of understanding of the obstacles and needs members of this community face. The success and growth of this project lies with the ability to educate the community and help the public understand we are all stakeholders, and all of us need to address domestic abuse. This year the Cleveland Domestic Violence Unit engaged in community outreach by participating in Pride in CLE 2023 and the Cleveland Mayor's Night Out Against Crime. During these events, Prosecutors interacted with the community and provided information about the Project and domestic abuse.

**Project Description:**

Activities and Approach: DV Project members work together to aggressively investigate and prosecute crimes of domestic violence while staying victim-focused to meet the legal and social needs of the victims. The Detectives assigned to the project receive reports of domestic violence and conduct additional investigations into these incidents. The Detectives, who are

specially trained on issues of domestic violence, make contact with the victim to interview them and gather evidence. Such a process is not typical for a misdemeanor case. The information gathered by the Detective is presented to a Domestic Violence Prosecutor who reviews the information to determine whether charges should be issued. Prosecutors are responsible for charging felony and misdemeanor matters, but only handle misdemeanor cases from the project in Cleveland Municipal Court. Victims also meet with a Victim Advocate who assists them with creating a safety plan, obtaining a civil protection order, and accompanies them to court.

The DV Project will also focus on collaboration and cross-discipline partnerships through engagement at the Family Justice Center (FJC). Through the FJC, parties work together and tackle training topics jointly, thereby bridging gaps in skills and knowledge so that victims are supported with the same philosophy throughout the justice system. In order to continue to achieve the goals of the project, there is a need to continue to provide specialized training for the domestic violence Prosecutors, Detectives and Advocates assigned to the project. Additional training ensures that all parties working in the Domestic Violence Project are able to effectively investigate and vigorously prosecute these cases in the constantly changing legal landscape.

Evidence-Based and Fidelity: The DV Project utilizes evidence based and best practices in approaching domestic abuse. The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing states, “Comprehensive and collaborative approaches to reducing domestic violence are more likely to succeed than piecemeal approaches” (Domestic Violence – POP Guide No. 45 (2006)). The Cleveland DV Project was studied locally by Cleveland State University and found to be effective (Regoeczi, 2011). CrimeSolutions.gov listed Charlotte-Mecklenburg Domestic Violence Unit as a “promising practice combining investigation and victim assistance.” We



expect to continue to partner and collaborate with the FJC which is recognized as a best practice under the U.S. Dept. of Justice, office on Violence Against Women in achieving this goal.

Human Trafficking: Cleveland is dedicated to supporting victims of Human Trafficking. Through our partnership with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC), we now have an Advocate imbedded at the Division of Police specifically to assist the victims of human trafficking. We will ensure these victims receive the support and services they need.

**Sustainability/ Accomplishments/Obstacles:**

The Domestic Violence Project has become an important tool in the fight against domestic violence. Part of the project's evolution will come from renewed efforts to educate the public and strengthen relationships with stakeholders so we can attract additional resources to sustain this program. For now, these grant funds are necessary to maintain the program.

The DV Project has had numerous successes, as well as setbacks, since its inception in 1997. The project began as a pilot project in the Second District of the City of Cleveland with three police Detectives, one Prosecutor and two Victim Advocates. In 2001, the project expanded to include the Fourth District and a few years later the Third District was covered by the project.

Cleveland is dedicated to best practices in DV and assisted the County in completing a study of a DV High Risk Team (HRT) model in Districts 1 & 5 starting in 2016. This model uses a modified danger assessment tool, the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE), which helps to identify victims at greatest risk of homicide and severe assault. Those victim reports are forwarded to two HRT officers in the Police DV Unit for immediate assistance from the Detectives, Advocates, and Prosecutors. It uses a collaborative multi-disciplinary team to support the safety of the victim and accountability of the offender. We have been working with

the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center and other program partners to determine how best to combine elements of the DV Project and the High Risk Team model. This has set the stage for what will finally become a unified response to domestic violence throughout the city of Cleveland. Currently, all police districts in Cleveland utilize the DA-LE. Although the last few years have been a challenge because of the pandemic and severe staffing shortages in the division of Police, we are looking forward to the future and continuing to assist victims and continue to be a positive force in the community.

The Cleveland Division of Police continues to work towards its goals for the FY 2022 VAWA proposal. We anticipate all program detectives will complete new training by the end of 2023 to ensure a coordinated community response to the victims of domestic violence. In relation to our second goal of increasing the number of police districts utilizing the DV Project, we still hope to reach this goal, although staffing challenges have hampered our efforts. We are currently unable to move any additional officers from basic patrol to DV Unit until we have more officers on staff. The Division of Police intends to sustain the Cleveland DV Project by continuing the current levels of staffing and by continuing to work with partnering agencies to expand the Project. There is a tremendous amount of support for the program at City Hall. We will continue to seek additional sources of funding.

Prosecutors and Police Officers are trained in emerging trends in victim services, underserved populations, domestic violence and sexual assault through the following methods: Prosecutors receive regular in-house training in new trends and the best methods for prosecuting DV and sexual assault cases; Police officers receive annual in-service training in the Police Academy that includes information on the needs of various underserved populations and best practices in responding to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; Project

Prosecutors and Detectives attend annual conferences that supply information regarding victims and trauma, emerging trends and research and working with underserved populations.

In 2022, the DV Unit at the Division of Police investigated and referred 2,966 DV reports to a prosecutor. The DV Project Prosecutors issued 2,299 domestic violence or related crimes charges for prosecution. There were 1,113 reports declined for prosecution due to insufficient evidence or the unavailability of the victim, and 305 charges were transferred to a higher court that is outside the grant-funded jurisdiction. There were 169 charges that were plead too, 7 charges were found guilty at trial and 2 charges were acquitted at trial. The remainder of the charges that were issued was dismissed.

**Project Objectives**

<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Indicator</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline Number</u></b>
To ensure all dedicated DV detectives receive training to ensure a coordinated community response to victims/survivors of DV during the grant period	The number of detectives who receive training in 2024.	The baseline will be 9 because 9 detectives will receive training in 2023.
To increase by 4 the number of times DV Unit detectives pro-actively seek out and attend community events.	The number times DV Officers attend community events	The baseline will be 0 since this this will be the first time we have sought out events to attend

Both objectives align with the State’s 2022 implementation plan goal: Multidisciplinary and program specific projects meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of DV, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Performance Data Collection:** The Division of Police and Law Department will maintain all records regarding the training offered to Police Officers and Prosecutors, and community events attended to share information on domestic violence.. The Law Department and Division of Police will collect and maintain data regarding the number of victims who are provided

services through new protocols for limited English proficient. Data will be provided to the Cleveland grants coordinator on a monthly basis for grant reporting requirements. Data will also be disseminated and analyzed at collaboration board meetings to determine the effectiveness of both goals. Both the Cleveland Division of Police and the Law Department are well versed in the laws regarding confidentiality, and have rules and procedures in place to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of victims.

**Timeline and Activities**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	
Continue and expand the Cleveland Division of Police’s role in the Cleveland Domestic Violence Project	To ensure all dedicated domestic violence Detectives receive domestic violence training to ensure a coordinated community response to victims/survivors of DV during the grant period.	Complete curriculum for training	April 1, 2024	Police, WV/SC, FJC	
		Offer training program to program detectives	June 30, 2024	FJC	
		Offer training program to program detectives	Sept 30, 2024	FJC	
		Offer training program to program detectives	Dec 31, 2024	FJC	
	To increase by 4 the number of times DV Unit detectives pro-actively seek out and attend community events during the grant period	Reach out to district commanders and community groups for a list of events in 2-24	February 1, 2024	Police	
		Select the most appropriate events to attend	March 1, 2024	Police	
		Have DV Unit officers attend one community event to provide info on DV and the DV Project	Quarterly	Police	
		Maintain records of events attended and information distributed	Quarterly	Police	

**Organization, Staff Capacity and Cultural Competency:**

The Project Director for this grant will be the Public Safety Grants Coordinator who has over 26 years of experience successfully managing 30-40 comprehensive grant-funded programs annually. The DV Project is a collaboration of three entities: The Cleveland Prosecutor's Office, the Cleveland Police Domestic Violence Unit and Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center (WV/SC). The Cleveland Prosecutor's Office has five (5) allotted Prosecutors to handle these cases. The DV Detectives currently have an average of 9 Detectives, one sergeant and one lieutenant assigned to this project. The WV/SC has 9 FTE Advocates assigned to this project. There is an ongoing attempt to increase personnel in all areas.

Development Surrounding Cultural Competency: Cleveland is a diverse community and the victims that are served by this project reflect that diversity. It is important as we move forward to ensure that our Prosecutors, Detectives, and Advocates all receive continuing training surrounding cultural, racial, legal, and socioeconomic issues through both VAWA funds and from their respective organizations. The revised protocols on assisting victims with limited English proficiency will also expand our delivery of services.

**Collaboration Board:**

The Collaboration Board for the Domestic Violence Project will include representatives from Cleveland Police, Cleveland Law Department, and the Cuyahoga County Witness-Victim Service Center. Meetings will be held quarterly with meeting notifications being distributed via e-mail. The Collaboration Board will review program data and discuss successes and any problems. They will work together to determine changes that could improve the project and provide advice on how to implement these changes.

**Office of Criminal Justice Services  
Detailed Budget Application**

Subgrant Number:

**PART A - BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE**

	Amount	Percentage %
OCJS Funds Requested:	\$136,105.77	75.00%
Cash Match	\$45,368.59	25.00%
In-Kind Match	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>	<b>\$181,474.36</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Identify the Source of Match:

**PART B - BUDGET REQUEST BY COST CATEGORY**

Please note that both the OCJS & matching costs are to be included in following sections.

**Section 1 - Personnel Costs**

*Salaries and Personnel*

Name/ Vacant	Title	No. Hrs.	Hrly Rate	Total
Emily McKenzie	Detective	2000	35.5664	71,132.80
John Freehoffer	Detective	2080	35.5136	73,868.29
			0.00	0.00
			0.00	0.00
			0.00	0.00
			0.00	0.00
<b>Salary Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$145,001.09</b>

*Employer's Share of Fringe Benefits:*

Fringe Benefits	Rate (%)	Total Yearly Wages	Total Cost
PERS (government agencies)			0
FICA (private agencies)			0
Retirement (private agencies)	19.50%	145001.09	28275.21
Worker's Compensation			0
Unemployment Comp. (max 2.00% on first \$9,000)			0
Medicare			0
Health Insurance			0
<i>Fill in the formula: \$ (Monthly Rate) x (# Months) x (FTE)</i>			
<b>Fringe Subtotal:</b>			<b>28275.21</b>

**Section 1 - Personnel Total:**

**Narrative Required: Provide justification for each position: list job duties.**

Detectives investigate reports of Domestic Violence and Stalking and present them to the Prosecutor. We are requesting the cost of the base salaries of just two of the 11 detectives and supervisors who are assigned to the police Domestic Violence Unit on a full-time basis. Fringe benefits are standard for police officers. Cleveland will pay for Medicare, health insurance, unemployment and Worker's Comp costs.

**Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts**

Name	Hourly Fee	Hours	Total
			0
			0
			0
			0

**Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts Total:** 0

**Narrative Required: Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.**

**Section 3 - Travel**

A. Auto	No. Miles	Per Mile	Total
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

B. Commercial	Destination	Fare	Total
Airfare for 2 people	DV National Conference	650	\$1,300.00

C. Per Diem: (Meal & Lodging Only)	No. of days	Rate	Total
Meals 2 people x 6 days x 1 conference	12	50	\$600.00
Lodging 2 people x 5 days x 1 conference	10	190	\$1,900.00

D. Other (Specify):	No. Items	Rate	Total
Registration	2	350	\$700.00
			0

**Section 3 - Travel Total** \$4,500.00

**Narrative Required: Provide justification for travel. Costs must relate to the project staff & objectives.**

We will send both grant-funded DV unit detectives to the Annual National Multi-Disciplinary Conference on Domestic Violence. The conference is coordinated by the National District Attorney's Association and focuses on DV programs that include partnerships with law enforcement, prosecution and victim services like Cleveland's program. We believe it is important for them to be exposed to new trends in serving the victims of domestic violence and to share knowledge and experiences with their peers working on similar programs.

**Section 4 - Equipment**

Item(s) Being Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

Section 4 - Equipment Total 0

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the equipment requested.

**Section 5 - Supplies**

List of Items to be Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
RTA Bus Tickets	400	2.25	\$900.00
Office Supplies	Various	Various	\$598.06
Desktop Computers	2	1,100.00	2,200
	0	0.00	0
	0	0	0

Section 5 - Supplies Total \$3,698.06

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the supplies; provide allocation method.

It is essential that we have bus tickets available to give to victims. Many of them do not have transportation and have a very limited income. This helps to ensure they will be able to meet with victim advocates, detectives and prosecutors. General office supplies such as ink cartridges, paper, batteries, etc.. are needed in the unit. The grant-funded officers need new computers.



**Section 6 - Other Costs**

Other Charges	Cost	Terms	Total
Rent-Facilities	0	0	0
Cost of Ownership	0	0	0
Telephone	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0
Bookkeeping/Audit	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	0	0
Clerical	0	0	0
Auto Lease/ST Rental	0	0	0
Equipment Lease/ST Rental	0	0	0
Photocopying	0	0	0
Printing	0	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0	0

Section 6 - Other Costs Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for other costs: provide allocation methods where appropriate.

**Section 7 - Confidential Funds (Applies to Drug Task Force Projects Only)**

Implementing Agency Confidential Funds	Total
0	0

Section 7- Confidential Fund Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Confidential Funds.

**Section 8 - Indirect Costs**

Amount of Direct Costs Less Equipment	Percent 0 to 10%	Total
0	0.00%	0

Section 8 - Indirect Cost Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Indirect Cost: attach a copy of your federally approved plan.

**PART C- BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE & COST CATEGORY**

	1. Matching Funds		2. OCJS Funds	3. Total
	Cash	Inkind		
1. Personnel	\$ 43,319.08		\$ 129,957.23	\$ 173,276.30
2. Consultant/Contracts				
3. Travel	\$ 1,125.00		\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,500.00
4. Equipment	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
5. Supplies	\$ 924.52		\$ 2,773.55	\$ 3,698.06
6. Other Costs				
7. Confidential Funds				
8. Indirect Cost				
9. Total Project Budget	\$ 45,368.59		\$ 136,105.77	\$ 181,474.36

Narrative: Federal, State and Local Funding Sources-please provide information on funding that is received by your Agency that is relevant to this project applied for. Include the source, amount received, and year funds were awarded.

We currently have a FY2022 STOP VAWA grant for \$118,873

Do you have other funding resources not identified above?

Yes	No
X	

Prepared by: Name and Title  
 Dawn Heartsong Grants Coordinator

Date:  
 9/22/2023

Contact Information: email  
 dheartsong@clevelandohio.gov

Telephone  
 216-623-5126



Revised 09/2003

2023 VAWA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW - PROSECUTION



**Department of Public Safety and Justice Services**  
**Subgrant Application Title Page**

<b>Subgrantee Name</b>	City of Cleveland, Law Department				
<b>Program Area</b>	VA 2 - Enhance Efforts (Prosecution)				
<b>Title of Project</b> 35 Character Maximum	Cleveland Domestic Violence Project				
<b>Project Period</b>	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024				
<b>Total Budget</b>	256,877.57				
<b>Main Contact</b>	Prefix Ms	First Name Dawn	MI	Last Name Heartsong	Suffix
	Title Grants Coordinator		Agency Cleveland Dept. of Public Safety		
	Address 1300 Ontario St		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
	Phone 216-623-5126		Fax 216-623-5853		
<b>Organizational Leader</b>	Prefix Mr.	First Name Mark	MI	Last Name Griffin	Suffix
	Title Director		Agency Cleveland Law Department		
	Address 601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 106		City Cleveland	Zip 44113	
	Phone 216-664-2800		Fax 216-664-2663		

<b>Application Prepared By:</b>	Name: Dawn Heartsong	Phone: 216-623-5126
<b>Email:</b>	DHeartsong@city.cleveland.oh.us	
<b>Budget Prepared By:</b>	Name: Dawn Heartsong	Email: 216-623-5126
<b>Email:</b>	DHeartsong@city.cleveland.oh.us	
<b>Quarterly Fiscal reporting will be done by:</b>	Name: Amy Hewett	Phone: 216-664-3735
<b>Email:</b>	AHewett@city.cleveland.oh.us	
<b>Quarterly Program reporting will be done by:</b>	Name: Dawn Heartsong	Phone: 216-623-5126
<b>Email:</b>	DHeartsong@city.cleveland.oh.us	

**Office of Criminal Justice Services  
Detailed Budget Application**

Subgrant Number:

**PART A - BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE**

	Amount	Percentage %
OCJS Funds Requested:	\$192,658.18	75.00%
Cash Match	\$64,219.39	25.00%
In-Kind Match		0.00%
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>	<b>\$256,877.57</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Identify the Source of Match:

**PART B - BUDGET REQUEST BY COST CATEGORY**

Please note that both the OCJS & matching costs are to be included in following sections.

**Section I - Personnel Costs**

*Salaries and Personnel*

Name/ Vacant	Title	No. Hrs.	Hrly Rate	Total
Verlinda Powell	Prosecutor/Supervisor	520	47.86	\$24,887.20
Tom Fisher	Prosecutor	300	47.86	\$14,358.00
Joan Bascone	Prosecutor	300	47.86	\$14,358.00
Merissa Cooper	Prosecutor	612	36.17	\$22,136.04
Matt Bezbachenko	Prosecutor	612	36.17	\$22,136.04
Vacant	Prosecutor	612	36.17	\$22,136.04
Aqueelah Jordan	Chief Prosecutor	200	64.06	\$12,812.00
Vacant	Paralegal	2080	27.41	\$57,012.80
Madison Turk	Law Clerk/Paralegal	1100	16.05	\$17,655.00
Ariella Landy	Law Clerk/Paralegal	1100	16.05	\$17,655.00
<b>Salary Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$225,146.12</b>

*Employer's Share of Fringe Benefits:*

Fringe Benefits	Rate (%)	Total Yearly Wages	Total Cost
PERS (government agencies)		0	0
FICA (private agencies)		0	0
Retirement (private agencies)		0	0
Worker's Compensation		0	0
Unemployment Comp. (max 2.00% on first \$9,000)		0	0
Medicare		0	0
Health Insurance			
<i>Fill in the formula: \$ (Monthly Rate) x (# Months) x (FTE)</i>			0
<b>Fringe Subtotal:</b>			<b>0</b>

**Section I - Personnel Total:**

**Narrative Required: Provide justification for each position; list job duties.**

Prosecutors are on the forefront combating the crisis of Domestic Violence (DV) in the City of Cleveland. Prosecutors review all police reports assigned to the Cleveland DV Project. They review detective investigations and related evidence to ensure sufficient ground to support the filing of appropriate charges in a matter. Prosecutors also work closely with victims, advocates and law enforcement in litigating matters in Cleveland Municipal Court. Prosecutors in Cleveland's DV Unit not only review, charge and litigate misdemeanor matters, but also review and charge matters deemed a felony that are ultimately prosecuted by Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. They also advocate before the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals and Ohio Supreme Court when necessary. Prosecutors and Law Clerks work tirelessly to protect the interest and safety of victims. Prosecutors are assigned to the program on a full-time basis, but this grant only covers a portion of their salaries. The City of Cleveland covers the difference and their fringe benefits.

**Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts**

Name	Fee	Total
		0
		0

0

Section 2 - Consultants/Contracts Total: 0

Narrative Required: Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.

**Section 3 - Travel**

A. Auto	No. Miles	Per Mile	Total
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

B. Commercial	Destination	Fare	Total
Airfare for 7 people	DV National Conference	650	\$4,550.00
		0	

C. Per Diem: (Meal & Lodging Only)	No. of days	Rate	Total
Meals 7 people x 6 days x 1 conference	42	60	\$2,520.00
Lodging 7 people x 5 days x 1 conference	35	154	\$5,390.00

D. Other (Specify):	No. Items	Rate	Total
Conference Registration 7 people x 1 conference	7	600	\$4,200.00

Section 3 - Travel Total \$16,660.00

Narrative Required: Provide justification for travel. Costs must relate to the project staff & objectives.

In 2023 members of the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office DV Unit attended the Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, Texas and one member attended the EVAWI conference. It is imperative to send attorneys to such trainings. In 2024 we want to send 6 prosecutors to an annual Multi-Disciplinary Conference on Domestic Violence. Prosecutors will attend a conference coordinated by the NDAA or another recognized and respected organization that address the issue of DV and other related crimes against women. These trainings focus on collaborative work between law enforcement, prosecution and victim services to combat issues surrounding domestic violence which is the heart of what the Cleveland DV Project is about. We believe it is important for prosecutors to receive continuous training and exposure to new trends in prosecuting DV cases and working with victims affected by these crimes to be successful in our community. Staying up to date on the law and different methodology and protocols is essential for the next generation of prosecutors to combat domestic abuse.

**Section 4- Equipment**

Item(s) Being Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

**Section 4 - Equipment Total** 0

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the equipment requested.

**Section 5 - Supplies**

List of Items to be Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
General Office Supplies	Various	Various	\$800.00
ViewSonic Viewboard 75"	1	\$3,126.87	\$3,126.87
Protection Plan 4 Year	1	\$99.00	\$99.00
ViewSonic Balance box Collaboration Display Stand	1	\$1,739.00	\$1,739.00
Surface Laptop 5 Core i7 16GB/512GB	2	\$1,653.29	\$3,306.58

**Section 5- Supplies Total** \$9,071.45

Narrative Required: Provide justification for the supplies: provide allocation method.  
 A general office supplies request is necessary for day-to-day operation needs (i.e. such as pens, ink cartridges, paper, etc.). As the department continues to increase to meet the needs of the residence, putting the law clerks in a position where they can work out of various courtrooms is essential to increased productivity.

**Section 6 - Other Costs**

Other Charges	Cost	Terms	Total
Rent-Facilities	0	0	0
Cost of Ownership	0	0	0
Telephone	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0
Bookkeeping/Audit	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	0	0
Clerical	0	0	0
Auto Lease/ST Rental	0	0	0
Equipment Lease/ST Rental	0	0	0
Photocopying	0	0	0
Printing/Outreach Materials	6000	1	6000
Internet air cards for 3 laptops	0	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0	0
Other (Specify)	0	0	0

Section 6 - Other Costs Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for other costs; provide allocation methods where appropriate.  
 work of DV prosecutors, we are requesting funds for the printing of information pamphlets and any other materials that can be distributed in court and at community events. Educating the public on domestic violence and victim's rights is key to raising awareness and reducing the incidents of domestic violence in Cleveland.

**Section 7 - Confidential Funds (Applies to Drug Task Force Projects Only)**

Implementing Agency Confidential Funds	Total
0	0

Section 7- Confidential Fund Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Confidential Funds.

**Section 8 - Indirect Costs**

Amount of Direct Costs Less Equipment	Percent 0 to 10%	Total
0	0.00%	0

Section 8 - Indirect Cost Total

Narrative Required: Provide justification for Indirect Cost; attach a copy of your federally approved plan.



**PART C- BUDGET REQUEST BY RESOURCE & COST CATEGORY**

	1. Matching Funds		2. OCJS Funds	3. Total
	Cash	Inkind		
1. Personnel	\$56,286.53		\$168,859.59	\$225,146.12
2. Consultant/Contracts	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Travel	\$4,165.00		\$12,495.00	\$16,660.00
4. Equipment	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Supplies	\$2,267.86		\$6,803.59	\$9,071.45
6. Other Costs	\$1,500.00		\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00
7. Confidential Funds				\$0.00
8. Indirect Cost				\$0.00
9. Total Project Budget	\$64,219.39		\$192,658.18	\$256,877.57

Narrative: Federal, State and Local Funding Sources-please provide information on funding that is received by your Agency that is relevant to this project applied for. Include the source, amount received, and year funds were awarded.

We currently have a FY2022 STOP VAWA grant for \$130,023

Do you have other funding resources not identified above?

Yes	No
X	

Prepared by: Name and Title  
 Dawn Heartsong , Grants Coordinator

Date:  
 9/22/2023

Contact Information: email  
 dheartsonq@city.cleveland.oh.us

Telephone  
 216-623-5126



Revised 09/2003

## **Cleveland Prosecutor's Office – Cleveland Domestic Violence Project - Narrative**

### **Problem Statement/Underserved Population:**

Cleveland is applying for funding, under Program Area VA 2: Enhancement Efforts, to continue and expand the successful Cleveland Domestic Violence Project, a vital partnership between Prosecutors from the Cleveland Law Department, Detectives from the Cleveland Division of Police and Victim Advocates from the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center. The collaboration between these departments has been an essential key in our efforts to reduce incidents of domestic violence in the City of Cleveland.

Nature and Scope of Problem: Cleveland is a diverse city with a population of approximately 367,991 people. Of that population a staggering 29% live in poverty. (2022 Census estimates). Cleveland also has the unfortunate distinction of being ranked amongst the most violent cities in the United States, according to the 2022 and prior years Universal Crime Reports statistics. According to Cleveland Police Radio, approximately 40% of all calls to 911 for assistance in the City of Cleveland are domestic violence complaints or other related crimes. In 2022, that amounted to 13,561 calls. The number of requests for police assistance not only emphasizes the need for a Domestic Violence Project in the City of Cleveland, but also shows that there is still more work to be done around this issue. Incidents of domestic violence play a significant role in the lives of the citizens in Cleveland and the effects of domestic violence impact all ethnic, racial and socio-economic groups.

Consequences: The Cleveland DV Project's impact on the community has been significant. Any loss of funding to this project would have adverse consequences for this community. The community would lose a virtual one-stop-shop of Advocates, Detectives and Prosecutors handling their police reports and court cases. The community would lose the

focused attention on domestic violence that is a direct result of the Cleveland DV Project. The need for the DV Project is even more important as we start to move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and create a new normal while recognizing and addressing the upheaval this significant event created in the areas of housing, employment, day care and education among other issues that affects victims of DV and their ability to report or leave an offender.

The second consequence of a loss of funding would be the City of Cleveland being forced to re-assign all or some of the Detectives who are currently assigned to the project. It would also require laying off some or all of the Prosecutors and Law Clerks who handle domestic violence cases for the Project. The short term consequence would be a dramatic reduction in the number of victims who could be served. The long term consequences could result in the end of the project as we know it and the loss of victim centered assistance surrounding domestic abuse. This would mean victims of domestic violence in Cleveland would be forced to traverse the criminal justice system alone without the assistances of any dedicated or specially trained staff to assist them in their most vulnerable time. This would result in fewer victims following through with prosecution, fewer successful convictions of DV perpetrators, and an increase in domestic violence incidents and more repeated incidents of abuse.

Target Population: The Cleveland DV Project serves female victims ages 18 and older who are victims of intimate partner violence. The project focuses on females who are the victims of abuse at the hands of their spouse or former spouse, a person they have a child(ren) with or a person they have cohabitated with in the last five years. This project also serves individuals in LGBTQIA+ relationships.

Historically, victims of domestic abuse have often been left to find their own way through a criminal justice system that at times can be confusing and overwhelming. Through a

collaborative approach, the Cleveland DV Project has brought together law enforcement, prosecution and advocacy to address domestic violence incidents and the needs of victims. In this community that means a victim is able to speak to a Detective and an Advocate in the same office not long after an incident has occurred, which results in victims not being jostled from one location to another. It also means that victims do not have to go to the Prosecutor's Office for charges. Dedicated Prosecutors review all police reports assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit and determine charges, if any. They also handle the reports that are charged in court. This project aspires to address the ever changing needs of women and men affected by DV.

Existing Resources: Cleveland currently pays more than 75% of the cost of operating the entire DV Project. This includes paying for 85% of the salaries and 100% of the benefits of the police officers assigned to the project, paying for police vehicles the officers use, and paying for nearly 75% of the salaries and 100% of the benefits of the prosecutors assigned to the project. The city does not have the additional resources to fund more of this program and needs this continuing grant to aid in keeping our focus on expanding the project.

Underserved Population: The needs of the residents of Cleveland are staggering. From issues such as employment, housing and education and then add in the effects of domestic abuse on a family it becomes clear that there is a need for the Domestic Violence Project. The issue of domestic violence in the Cleveland is impacted by poverty, race and ethnicity along with an under-educated and under-employed population. The future of this project means educational outreach in communities that address specific ethnic and cultural concerns that keep individuals from reporting crimes, following through with prosecution or just simply understanding that domestic abuse is not okay. It also means that this project will continue to reevaluate and respond to the changing needs of our victims in this community. Recent years have seen the

project servicing victims who live in our community originally from Nepal and a couple of African nations. Many of these victims had limited to no English proficiency. The Project will continue to improve our skills in working with all victims, but particularly those where English is not their first language and culturally, domestic abuse is not reported or discussed. The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative, which is led by the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center, has assisted the Cleveland Prosecutor's Office in a review of its language access policies. They developed a policy that includes additional staff training and securing interpreters for victims with limited or no English proficiency. The result is a more robust, coordinated response and formalized protocol when working with these victims. However, there is still outreach that is needed to engage the LGBTQIA+ community. Victims from this community are no different than victims from other communities, yet they face additional challenges due to lack of support systems, lack of education and lack of understanding of the obstacles and needs members of this community face. The success and growth of this project lies with the ability to educate the community and help the public understand we are all stakeholders, and all of us need to address domestic abuse. This year the Cleveland Domestic Violence Unit engaged in community outreach by participating in Pride in CLE 2023 and the Cleveland Mayor's Night Out Against Crime. During these events, Prosecutors interacted with the community and provided information about the Project and domestic abuse.

**Project Description:**

Activities and Approach: DV Project members work together to aggressively investigate and prosecute crimes of domestic violence while staying victim-focused to meet the legal and social needs of the victims. The Detectives assigned to the project receive reports of domestic violence and conduct additional investigations into these incidents. The Detectives, who are

specially trained on issues of domestic violence, make contact with the victim to interview them and gather evidence. Such a process is not typical for a misdemeanor case. The information gathered by the Detective is presented to a Domestic Violence Prosecutor who reviews the information to determine whether charges should be issued. Prosecutors are responsible for charging felony and misdemeanor matters, but only handle misdemeanor cases from the project in Cleveland Municipal Court. Victims also meet with a Victim Advocate who assists them with creating a safety plan, obtaining a civil protection order, and accompanies them to court.

The DV Project will also focus on collaboration and cross-discipline partnerships through engagement at the Family Justice Center (FJC). Through the FJC, parties work together and tackle training topics jointly, thereby bridging gaps in skills and knowledge so that victims are supported with the same philosophy throughout the justice system. In order to continue to achieve the goals of the project, there is a need to continue to provide specialized training for the domestic violence Prosecutors, Detectives and Advocates assigned to the project. Additional training ensures that all parties working in the Domestic Violence Project are able to effectively investigate and vigorously prosecute these cases in the constantly changing legal landscape.

Evidence-Based and Fidelity: The DV Project utilizes evidence based and best practices in approaching domestic abuse. The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing states, “Comprehensive and collaborative approaches to reducing domestic violence are more likely to succeed than piecemeal approaches” (Domestic Violence – POP Guide No. 45 (2006)). The Cleveland DV Project was studied locally by Cleveland State University and found to be effective (Regoeczi, 2011). CrimeSolutions.gov listed Charlotte-Mecklenburg Domestic Violence Unit as a “promising practice combining investigation and victim assistance.” We

expect to continue to partner and collaborate with the FJC which is recognized as a best practice under the U.S. Dept. of Justice, office on Violence Against Women in achieving this goal.

Human Trafficking: Cleveland is dedicated to supporting victims of Human Trafficking. Through our partnership with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC), we now have an Advocate imbedded at the Division of Police specifically to assist the victims of human trafficking. We will ensure these victims receive the support and services they need.

**Sustainability/ Accomplishments/Obstacles:**

The Domestic Violence Project has become an important tool in the fight against domestic violence. Part of the project's evolution will come from renewed efforts to educate the public and strengthen relationships with stakeholders so we can attract additional resources to sustain this program. For now, these grant funds are necessary to maintain the program.

The DV Project has had numerous successes, as well as setbacks, since its inception in 1997. The project began as a pilot project in the Second District of the City of Cleveland with three police Detectives, one Prosecutor and two Victim Advocates. In 2001, the project expanded to include the Fourth District and a few years later the Third District was covered by the project.

Cleveland is dedicated to best practices in DV and assisted the County in completing a study of a DV High Risk Team (HRT) model in Districts 1 & 5 starting in 2016. This model uses a modified danger assessment tool, the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE), which helps to identify victims at greatest risk of homicide and severe assault. Those victim reports are forwarded to two HRT officers in the Police DV Unit for immediate assistance from the Detectives, Advocates, and Prosecutors. It uses a collaborative multi-disciplinary team to support the safety of the victim and accountability of the offender. We have been working with

the Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center and other program partners to determine how best to combine elements of the DV Project and the High Risk Team model. This has set the stage for what will finally become a unified response to domestic violence throughout the city of Cleveland. Currently, all police districts in Cleveland utilize the DA-LE. Although the last two years have been a challenge because of the pandemic, we are looking forward to the future and continuing to assist victims and continue to be a positive force in the community.

The Cleveland Prosecutor's Office continues to work towards its goals for the FY 2022 VAWA proposal. We anticipate all Prosecutors will complete domestic violence training by the end of 2023 to ensure a coordinated community response to the victims of domestic violence. Prosecutors that are members of the Cleveland DV Project have attended in person training at national conferences. However, the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office also utilizes virtual training options that may arise during the year to further ensure our Prosecutors are trained in the dynamics of domestic violence. In relation to our second goal, we continue to serve all victims of domestic abuse including those that have limited English proficiency or hearing/sight impaired and required the assistance of interpretation services. The Prosecutor's Office intends to sustain the Cleveland DV Project by continuing the current levels of staffing and by continuing to work with partnering agencies to expand the Cleveland DV Project. There is a tremendous amount of support for the program in the Division of Police, Prosecutor's Office and City Hall. We will continue to seek additional sources of funding to help expand the program.

Prosecutors and Police Officers are trained in emerging trends in victim services, underserved populations, domestic violence and sexual assault through the following methods: Prosecutors receive regular in-house training in new trends and the best methods for prosecuting DV and sexual assault cases; Police officers receive annual in-service training in the Police



Academy that includes information on the needs of various underserved populations and best practices in responding to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; Project Prosecutors and Detectives attend annual conferences that supply information regarding victims and trauma, emerging trends and research and working with underserved populations.

In 2022, the DV Unit at the Division of Police investigated and referred 2,966 DV reports to a prosecutor. The DV Project Prosecutors issued 2,299 domestic violence or related crimes charges for prosecution. There were 1,113 reports declined for prosecution due to insufficient evidence or the unavailability of the victim, and 305 charges were transferred to a higher court that is outside the grant-funded jurisdiction. There were 169 charges that were plead too, 7 charges were found guilty at trial and 2 charges were acquitted at trial. The remainder of the charges that were issued was dismissed.

**Project Objectives**

<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Indicator</u></b>	<b><u>Baseline Number</u></b>
Ensure all dedicated DV prosecutors receive DV training to ensure a coordinated community response to victims/survivors of DV in 2024	The number of prosecutors who receive training in 2024.	The baseline will be 0 because this will be new training in 2024.
To increase by 10% of the limited English proficient victims who are provided interpretation services in 2024	The number of LEP victims who received interpretation services.	The baseline will be 24.

Both objectives align with the State’s 2022 implementation plan goal: Multidisciplinary and program specific projects meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of DV, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Performance Data Collection:** The Division of Police and Law Department will maintain all records regarding the training offered to Police Officers and Prosecutors. The Law Department and Division of Police will collect and maintain data regarding the number of

victims who are provided services through new protocols for limited English proficient. Data will be provided to the Cleveland grants coordinator on a monthly basis for grant reporting requirements. Data will also be disseminated and analyzed at collaboration board meetings to determine the effectiveness of both goals. Both the Cleveland Division of Police and the Law Department are well versed in the laws regarding confidentiality, and have rules and procedures in place to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of victims.

**Timeline and Activities**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Continue and expand the Cleveland Law Department's role in the Cleveland Domestic Violence Project	To ensure all dedicated domestic violence Prosecutors receive domestic violence training to ensure a coordinated community response to victims/survivors of DV during the grant period.	Attend a national conference on domestic violence	Dec. 1, 2024	Prosecutor
		Engage in community outreach regarding domestic violence	June 30, 2024	Prosecutor
		Engage in community outreach regarding domestic violence	Dec. 31, 2024	Prosecutor
		Present during roll calls at the Cleveland Police regarding the DV Project and DV in general	Dec. 31, 2024	Prosecutor
	To increase by 10% of the limited English proficient victims who are provided interpretation services during the grant period.	Collaborate on reviewing LEP protocols and making any needed modifications	March 1, 2024	Prosecutor, WVSC
		Ensure any new DV Prosecutors and DV Detectives are aware of how to access services	June 1, 2024	Prosecutor, Police
		Report data to grants coordinator on LEP victims who have been provided with services.	Quarterly	Prosecutor, Police
		Attend coordinating committee meetings	Quarterly	Police, WVSC Prosecutor

### **Organization, Staff Capacity and Cultural Competency:**

The Project Director for this grant will be the Public Safety Grants Coordinator who has over 25 years of experience successfully managing 30-40 comprehensive grant-funded programs annually. The DV Project is a collaboration of three entities: The Cleveland Prosecutor's Office, the Cleveland Police Domestic Violence Unit and Cuyahoga County Witness/Victim Service Center (WV/SC). The Cleveland Prosecutor's Office has five (5) allotted Prosecutors to handle these cases. The DV Detectives currently have an average of 9 Detectives, one sergeant and one lieutenant assigned to this project. The WV/SC has 9 FTE Advocates assigned to this project. There is an ongoing attempt to increase personnel in all areas.

Development Surrounding Cultural Competency: Cleveland is a diverse community and the victims that are served by this project reflect that diversity. It is important as we move forward to ensure that our Prosecutors, Detectives, and Advocates all receive continuing training surrounding cultural, racial, legal, and socioeconomic issues through both VAWA funds and from their respective organizations. The revised protocols on assisting victims with limited English proficiency will also expand our delivery of services.

### **Collaboration Board:**

The Collaboration Board for the Domestic Violence Project will include representatives from Cleveland Police, Cleveland Law Department, and the Cuyahoga County Witness-Victim Service Center. Meetings will be held quarterly with meeting notifications being distributed via e-mail. The Collaboration Board will review program data and discuss successes and any problems. They will work together to determine changes that could improve the project and provide advice on how to implement these changes.