



**City of Cleveland Memorandum**  
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

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**TO:** Michael D. Polensek, Chair  
Safety Committee

**FROM:** Karrie D. Howard, Chief/ Director  
Department of Public Safety

**DATE:** February 16, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 96-2022 Authorizing the Directors of Public Safety or Law to apply for and accept grants from the Cuyahoga County Public Safety and Justice Services for the FY 2021 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) program for a sexual assault advocate and for the Law Enforcement and Prosecution components of the Cleveland Domestic Violence Program; and authorizing one or more contracts with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and other entities to implement the grants

Ordinance No. 96-2022, if approved by Council, would authorize the Directors of Public Safety and Law to apply for and accept three (3) grants from Cuyahoga County for the FY 2021 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). If approved by Council, the legislation will provide funding for the operation of the Cleveland Domestic Violence Program and Cleveland Sexual Assault Advocate.

**Purpose of Grant:**

The goal of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant is to provide funding to enhance the investigation, prosecution, and victim advocacy of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. The City of Cleveland will be reimbursed for costs associated with operating the Cleveland Domestic Violence Program. This is a partnership with Cleveland Police Detectives, Cleveland Prosecutors, Cleveland Municipal Court, and Victim Advocates from County Witness/Victim Services. Cleveland will also be reimbursed for the costs associated with a victim advocate from the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center being assigned to the Police Sex Crimes Unit.

**DV Program – Law Enforcement:**

The Cleveland Police Domestic Violence Unit detectives investigate reports of DV and stalking and present them to the Prosecutor. The detectives share an office at police headquarters with victim advocates. The grant pays for the partial salaries of two detectives.

In 2021 the Police DV Unit investigated 3,109 cases.

Expenses to be reimbursed:

Personnel:	\$ 126,826.00 (Detectives)
Travel:	\$ 4,300.00 (Annual DV conference)
Supplies:	<u>\$ 2,919.24 (Office supplies and bus tickets)</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 134,045.24</u>

Grant Award:	\$ 100,533.93
Matching Funds:	<u>\$ 33,511.31</u>
Total Project Amount:	<u>\$ 134,045.24</u>

**DV Program – Prosecution:**

The City of Cleveland Prosecutor’s Office provide prosecutors who focus on charging and prosecuting domestic violence and its related crimes (ie menacing by stalking, aggravated menacing and violation of protection orders) to provide specialized attention to this issue and the specific concerns that arise with handling such cases and working with individuals affected by violence and abuse.

This grant is used to pay all or a portion of the salaries for Prosecutors to continue to assist in the prosecution of domestic violence offenders in the City of Cleveland through this specialized program.

In 2021 the grant-funded prosecutors accepted 2,488 DV cases for prosecution.

Expenses to be reimbursed:

Personnel:	\$ 163,498.30 (Prosecutors, law clerks)
Travel:	\$ 15,360.00 (Annual DV conference)
Supplies:	\$ 10,631.87 (Office supplies)
Other:	<u>\$ 5,000.00 (Printing informational pamphlets)</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 194,490.17</u>

Grant Award:	\$ 145,617.63
Matching Funds:	<u>\$ 48,872.54</u>
Total Project Amount:	<u>\$ 194,490.17</u>



**Sexual Assault Program:**

The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center assigns a Victim Advocate full-time to the Police Sex Crimes Unit. They help Sexual Assault survivors traverse the justice system and locate any needed support.

In 2021 the Sexual Assault Advocate served 439 survivors of sexual assault.

**Expenses to be reimbursed:**

Contractual:	<u>\$ 61,444.92 (Cleveland Rape Crisis Center)</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 61,444.92</u>

Grant Award:	\$ 46,083.69
Matching Funds:	<u>\$ 15,361.23</u>
Total Project Amount:	<u>\$ 61,444.92</u>

- Grant Period is 1/01/22 thru 12/31/22
- This is the sixth year we have received the Sexual Assault grant.
- We have received the DV grants since 1997. Funding has been reduced at the federal level. We are now receiving less than half of what we used to receive, but are processing more cases.