

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
City of Cleveland - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Proposal
August 2022

COMMUNITY NEEDS ARE INCREASING

For nearly fifty years, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) has provided life-changing and life-saving services to survivors of rape, sexual abuse and human trafficking in Northeast Ohio. Last year alone, CRCC provided direct services to more than 10,000 victims, more than half residing in the City of Cleveland.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic increase in demand for our services, with the traumatic nature of the past two years compounding with the trauma of sexual violence. For many, social isolation has provided the final push needed to seek our expert help. For others, especially children, the isolation created circumstances that led to their assault or abuse. **The number of children seeking our counseling services in 2021 increased 70% over the previous year.**

Sadly, sexual violence was an epidemic in our nation and local community long before the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. A recent study by the Begun Center for the Prevention of Violence at Case Western Reserve University demonstrated that **the rate of sexual assaults in the City of Cleveland was nearly 10x higher than the national average. Further studies show that women of color, those who live in poverty and children are especially at risk for experiencing these horrific crimes.**

Sexual violence and untreated trauma create life-long barriers to physical and mental health and well-being. Rape survivors are:

- 4 times more likely to experience anxiety or depression
- 13 times more likely to contemplate suicide
- 26 times more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs.

Fortunately, survivors in Cleveland can lean on the specialized, trauma-informed services at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center to help them recover, heal and thrive. These supports include:

- 24/7 rape crisis and support hotline available via phone, text or online chat
- Individual counseling and support groups
- Victim advocacy for those pursuing criminal justice
- Case management to help the most vulnerable survivors meet their basic needs
- Youth prevention and community education programs

All services are free of charge and most are available in Spanish. To increase accessibility to our services, CRCC operates offices in several Cleveland neighborhoods, including:

- Clark Fulton
- Shaker Square
- Glenville (Human Trafficking Drop-in Center)
- Cleveland Division of Police, Sex Crimes Unit



Clark-Fulton Office
2937 West 25th Street, 2nd Floor
Cleveland, OH 44113

(216) 619-6194 Main
(216) 619-6192 24/7 Hotline
clevelandrapecrisis.org

COVID-19 EXACERBATED FUNDING CHALLENGES

As more survivors of rape and sexual abuse are asking CRCC for help, core federal funding to victim service agencies like ours has been cut and continues to dwindle. Over the last two years, CRCC has experienced \$3 million in cuts to our agency from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program, equating to nearly half of our annual operating budget. Additionally, COVID forced the cancellation of our signature fundraising events.

A TRACK RECORD OF LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES

Through these challenges, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center has continued to innovate and adapt to avoid major cuts to services. We have aggressively pursued and leveraged new investments – including the substantial support and one-time funding received from Cuyahoga County through the CARES Act and a PPP loans – to grow our capacity to serve survivors amid a difficult funding environment.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center has a proven track record of leveraging investments to grow services for survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking.

We seek an investment from the City of Cleveland to maximize the response to the increased need resulting from the pandemic.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE CITY OF CLEVELAND

An investment of **\$2,500,000** over the next four years from the City of Cleveland's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will help Cleveland Rape Crisis Center mitigate service disruption for survivors amid increased demand during the pandemic and continue to build a legacy of long-term financial strength.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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BUDGET BREAKDOWN – \$2,500,000 OVER FOUR YEARS

The below budget presentation reflects an \$2,500,000 award expended by 2026.

Budget: \$2,500,000 Over Four Years					
Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Direct Services	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$1,800,000
Awareness Building & Advocacy	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$300,000
Capital (Equipment, furniture etc.)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
Operating Costs (Occupancy, program expenses, technology etc.)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
				Total	\$2,500,000

MONITORING FUNDS AND TRACKING SUCCESS

CRCC maintains effective internal controls to appropriately steward funds, including an accounting department familiar with applicable award management rules, principles and regulations. All funds will be maintained and accounted for separately and distinctly from other sources of funding. CRCC utilizes QuickBooks to code and account for funds to ensure financial accountability.

CRCC tracks utilization data (number of hotline calls, therapy clients served, number of referrals etc.), demographic information and health indicators (in an electronic health record) to measure the reach and scope of programming, as well as the effectiveness of services. To inform goals, measure progress of objectives, and aid in strategic planning, data is routinely aggregated by CRCC's Manager of Program Quality Assurance and Systems and reviewed by organization leadership.