



Network News

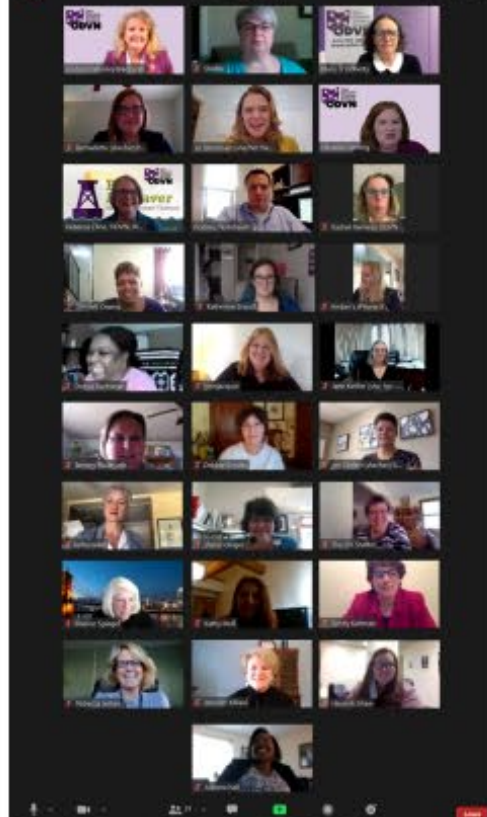
October 2020

Member Programs Advocate for Increased Funding for DV Services during Advocacy Day

Representatives from ODVN member programs met with 54 legislators to advocate for increased state support for Ohio's DV programs, during ODVN's first annual Advocacy Day on Oct. 6. More than 50 participants from member programs across the state and ODVN staff participated.

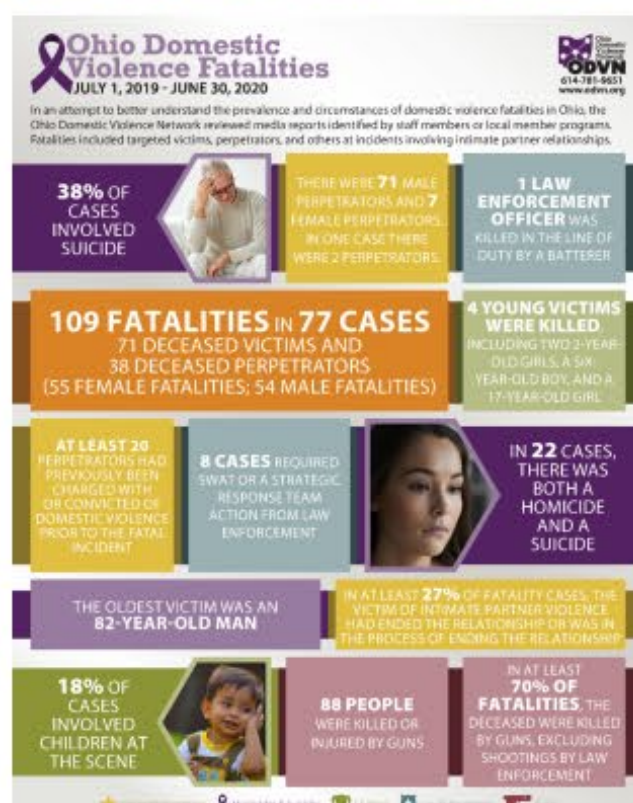
They asked that Ohio's \$1 million domestic violence line item be increased to \$5 million annually. In 2019 the General Assembly included — for the first time — \$1 million in support for DV services. Advocates gave elected officials a [report](#) showing that the funds were used for general operating expenses.

About 60% of their visits were with Republican legislators and about 40% were with Democratic legislators. About 59% of the elected officials expressed strong support for increasing the line item, while 41% of them said they were likely to support the increase or were unsure.



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109 people died from domestic violence in Ohio, a 35% spike over last year



Ohio suffered 109 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2020 – a 35% increase in fatalities over the same time period last year, according to ODVN's [fifth annual count of DV fatalities](#).

From April through June (the first full months of the pandemic during the reporting period), Ohio saw a 14% increase in the number of fatalities -- from 22 fatalities to 25 fatalities -- over the same three-month period in 2019.

ODVN released the fatality count at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. More than 150 people attended the virtual event on Oct. 6.

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VOCA cuts mean LifeSaver Fund donations more important than ever



In celebration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please consider donating to ODVN's LifeSaver Fund.

Every penny we raise will be used to provide emergency and legal assistance to survivors and their children.

We feel an extra sense of urgency this year.

Last month ODVN learned that our most important funding source – our Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant – will be cut substantially. As you may have seen from media reports, ODVN's grant will be cut by nearly 41%. That means the number of families who receive assistance through our Relocation and Legal Assistance programs will be cut by more than a third. Last year those programs served 1,220 survivors and 739 children.

If you can't make a donation, please help spread the word. It's as easy as "liking" the ODVN page on Facebook or following @OhioDVN on Twitter.

Please consider donating to help provide assistance for survivors and their children!

[Donate](#)

Thank You to these Corporate Foundations for Supporting our Relocation Services

Three corporate foundations made awards to ODVN's Relocation and Safety Assistance Program that helps survivors and their children with expenses like rent, utilities, and transportation so they can move to safe housing.

- **AEP Ohio** awarded a \$10,000 grant through the **AEP Foundation** to provide emergency shelter and relocation assistance for survivors and their children served by Square One, a brand-new shelter opening this month in Gallipolis that will serve victims in Gallia, Jackson and Meigs counties.
- The **Safelite®AutoGlass Foundation** awarded a \$5,000 grant to ODVN for relocation services to rental housing and/or alternate shelter in hotels for domestic violence survivors and their children in the Columbus area.
- The **South Central Power Company Foundation** Board of Directors awarded a \$4,000 grant for relocation assistance for domestic violence survivors who seek help at ODVN's 30 member programs in South Central Power's service area.



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