

August 2021

Advocates Celebrate Grassroots Victory: State Budget Includes Significantly More Funding for DV Services

The state budget includes \$7.5 million in operational support for domestic violence programs in this biennium. Programs will receive \$5 million this year and \$2.5 million next year. The increase culminates a two-year grassroots advocacy campaign by ODVN's member programs and supporters.

"We are thrilled that the legislature stepped up to support the programs in their communities," said Executive Director Mary O'Doherty.

ODVN is especially grateful to our legislative champions, including Sen. Stephanie Kunze, Sen. Nickie Antonio, Sen. George Lang, Rep. Cindy Abrams, Rep. Laura Lanese, Rep. Janine Boyd, Rep. Sara Carruthers, and former Rep. Erica Crawley. We also are thankful to the Senate and House leadership and the administration of Gov. Mike DeWine.

The funding, a significant increase over the \$2 million DV services line item in the 2020 budget, will help programs respond to an increase in requests for services and deal with federal funding cuts. Collectively, the programs lost \$7.7 million this year, and have seen budget reductions of about 40% over the past two years.

"VOCA Fix" Is Focus on NNEDV's Advocacy Day



Top row from left to right: Micaela Deming, Policy Director and Staff Attorney; Mary O'Doherty, Executive Director; and Bridget Mahoney, President, Board of Directors
Second row from left to right: Donya Buchanan, Incoming President, Board of Directors; Kathy Strancar, Executive Director, Forbes House; and Amanda Kain, aide to Rep. David Joyce (OH-14)

ODVN staffers and board members participated in the National Network to End Domestic Violence Advocacy Day on June 16. Bridget Mahoney, Board Chair, and Donya Buchanan, Board Chair-Elect, joined Mary O'Doherty and Micaela Deming for virtual meetings with staff from the offices of both US Senators and eight Representatives. Kathy Strancar, Executive Director of Forbes House in Lake County, also attended the meeting with an aide to Rep. David Joyce.

The VOCA Fix, which President Biden signed into law July 22, was the top priority. ODVN also advocated for increases to core federal funding sources and the reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, both of which cleared the House earlier this year.

AmeriCorps Member Creates Empowerment Programs for Youth in Shelter

ODVN has a few openings for AmeriCorps members



Morgan Smith, AmeriCorps Youth Specialist displays a welcome box for children entering the shelter.

Since she started working at Sojourner House in Youngstown, Morgan Smith has helped build a small garden, organized a school supply drive, and created welcome boxes for every child that enters the shelter.

Morgan, an AmeriCorps Youth Specialist, has been creating empowerment opportunities for children since she started working at the shelter in October.

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Nancy Grigsby is Honored by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Nancy Grigsby, ODVN's Legal Assistance Program Director was recognized last month with the 2021 Innovative Legal Services Award at the annual conference of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV).

Nancy said the award was especially meaningful because it recognized something important that she created in the last juncture of her career: a legal services program for survivors who would otherwise be without legal guidance and representation.



Nancy Grigsby, Legal Assistance Program Director

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Thank you to these donors: George Gund Foundation, Honda of America Foundation, Allstate Foundation, and Cardinal Health Foundation



The George Gund Foundation made a generous grant of \$100,000 over two years to support and promote ODVN's advocacy and systems reform work in Ohio.



"We are thrilled to count The Gund Foundation as one of our supporters and appreciate this acknowledgment of our work," said Mary O'Doherty, Executive Director.



Thank you to the Honda of America Foundation for continuing to support ODVN's Relocation Assistance Program with a \$10,000 grant that assists survivors in Allen, Champaign, Clark, Delaware, Franklin, Logan, Marion, Montgomery, Shelby, and Union counties.



The Allstate Foundation has been a loyal supporter of economic empowerment for domestic violence survivors and has awarded ODVN a \$5,000 grant for advocate training with the Moving Ahead curriculum.

Thank you to the Cardinal Health Foundation for providing a \$3,500 Essential to the Community Grant on behalf of employee Brian Worth's volunteer service as a member of ODVN's Board of Directors.

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