



Network News

March 2023

Advocates Celebrate Big Win for Survivors: Gov. DeWine's Budget Includes \$20M for DV Services

ODVN and its member programs are extremely grateful to Gov. Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost for including \$20 million for domestic violence services in their proposed budgets.

Now advocates must ensure the General Assembly agrees to keep the funding in the budget. More than 50 staff from ODVN and its member programs will gather at the Riffe Center for Advocacy Day on March 23. They will remind legislators that their programs have experienced severe service reductions since 2019 when most of their VOCA grants were cut by 60% or more.

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Advocacy Day Press Conference Will Be Live Streamed

ODVN's Advocacy Day press conference will be live-streamed from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on March 23. Register [here](#) to watch the Advocacy Day speakers virtually.

New Housing Program Accepting Applications

\$1.87 Million Available to Help Rural Homeless Survivors

ODVN's new housing program, REACH 2.0, is accepting applications from survivors who are working with our member programs in Ohio's 80 rural counties. The HUD DV Bonus Rapid ReHousing grant will provide at least 6 months of rental assistance for at least 231 survivors and children in its first year.

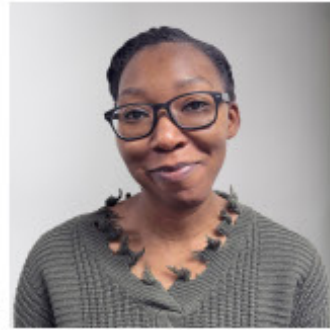
The grant supports housing advocates at 14 ODVN member programs, who are responsible for providing supportive services, helping survivors find apartments, recruiting landlords, and inspecting the units to ensure they meet HUD standards.

The \$1.87 million grant was transferred to ODVN from the Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center in Akron.

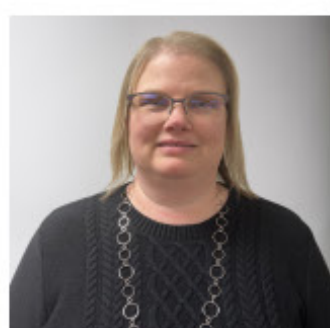
Participants must work with a housing advocate from one of our member programs to receive assistance. For more information about REACH 2.0, contact reach@odvn.org.

ODVN Announces New Hires and AmeriCorps Members

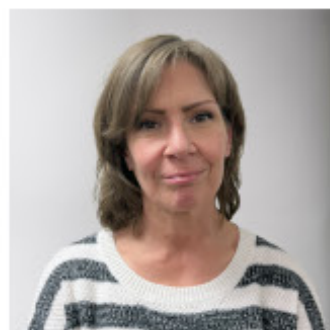
Housing Program



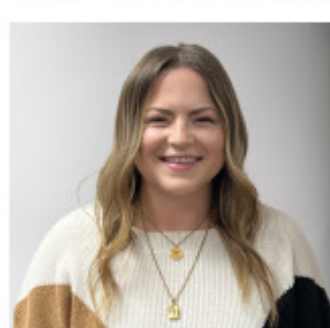
Takara Sanders is the Housing Program Manager for the REACH 2.0 Rapid Rehousing Program. She guides the 14 sub-recipients throughout rural Ohio in program implementation and works closely with ODVN's Housing and Compliance Coordinators.



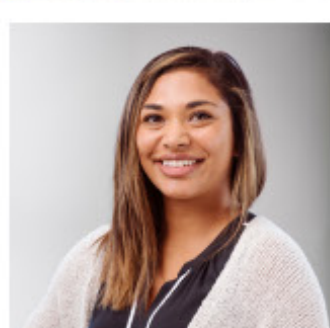
Amber Lester is the Housing Finance Manager and oversees the financial administration of the REACH 2.0 grant. She also works to ensure compliance with policies and procedures, data collection, and tracking match.



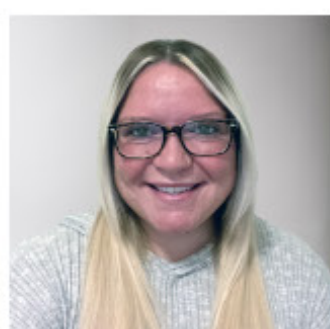
Sarah Binkley is the Case Management Specialist for the REACH 2.0 program, providing housing services and in-home case management for survivors exiting shelters. She is responsible for overseeing the six-month assistance program and assists survivors in the regions of Ohio not covered by a subrecipient.



Taylor Smithey has a new position at ODVN as the Relocation and REACH Compliance Coordinator. She splits her time between the Relocation and Safety Assistance Program and the REACH 2.0 Program.

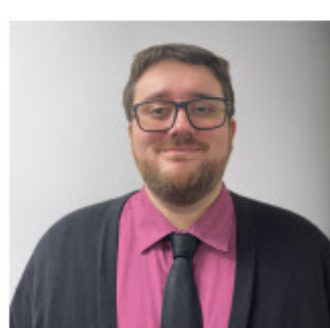


Courtney Greene is the AmeriCorps Relocation Empowerment Specialist. She helps to process relocation assistance applications, communicate approvals, and respond to inquiries.



Brittany Canter is the AmeriCorps Housing Empowerment Specialist. She creates materials to educate potential landlords about domestic violence and provides other support for the project.

Other New Hires



Adam Chaney is the Administrative and Program Coordinator and divides his time between administrative duties and ODVN's Hotel Program. As the first point of contact for organizations utilizing the Hotel Program, Adam regularly responds to questions from programs and assists programs in booking hotel stays for survivors.



Erin Egan, ODVN's new Communications Coordinator, is an AmeriCorps VISTA. She's a fourth-year double major in political science and psychology at The Ohio State University.

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Thank You to our Funders!



Thank you to **Columbus Gas of Ohio and the NiSource Charitable Foundation** for their donation of \$5,000 to support ODVN's Relocation Assistance Program. The program provides hardship assistance to domestic violence survivors by covering security deposits, rent, transportation, moving expenses, or utilities with the goal of moving families to safety quickly. The funding will be used to help survivors and their children in Columbus Gas of Ohio's service areas which include Delaware, Franklin, Logan, Lucas, Marion, and Trumbull counties.

Thanks to the **First Energy Foundation** which provided a \$5,000 grant to assist survivors and their children in Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison, and Cleveland Illuminating service territories.

Finally, ODVN thanks the **Siemer Family Foundation** for its generous \$10,000 grant that supports the Relocation Assistance programming in central Ohio.

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