

**Cover Sheet**

<b>Organization</b>	Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center
<b>Organization Type</b>	Not-For-Profit
<b>Address</b>	2806 Payne Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114
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<b>Federal Tax ID #</b>	34-1278377
<b>DUNS #</b>	619520372
<b>Project/Program Name</b>	Victim Advocacy Services
<b>Total FY19 Project Budget</b>	\$30,857
<b>FY19 CDBG Funding Request</b>	\$20,020

### **Abstract**

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) has over 40 years of history leading the community in responding to victims of child abuse and domestic violence and working to break the cycle of abuse via prevention, intervention programming and community education. DVCAC is dedicated to its mission to empower individuals, educate the community and advocate for justice to end domestic violence and child abuse. The agency provides a vast range of services including: domestic violence and family helpline; crisis intervention; safety planning; emergency shelter; justice system advocacy; support groups; parenting groups; individual and group trauma therapy; art therapy; culturally specific services; prevention education; and supervised visitation.

DVCAC has engaged in justice system advocacy on behalf of victims of relationship violence and their children for over 24 years. The agency is committed to advocacy as a principal strategy to improve the justice system to assure that victims of abuse achieve safety, autonomy, health, well-being, independence, financial restitution, and justice. DVCAC's Justice System Advocacy Program (JSAP) provides services to victims of domestic violence, stalking, menacing by stalking, assault, and felonious assault that are engaged in the Lakewood Municipal Court.

The work of the Lakewood JSAP Advocate provides victims of domestic violence and child abuse with services that research has shown to make them safer. Advocates can demystify the court process, alert victims to potential consequences of the arrest of the perpetrator, explain next steps, and, most importantly provide support and access to resources they may need going forward. Research conducted by the National Institute of Justice shows that when advocates reach out to women in "coordinated, early, victim-focused interventions," those women are more likely to: participate in court proceedings; access community-based advocacy programs; report decreases in distress (PTSD symptoms, depression, fear); and to have left or be planning to leave their abusers (DePrince, 2012).

Domestic violence crosses all segments of society regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status. It is important to note, however, that when a victim leaves a domestic violence situation their economic status is often altered and in most cases these victims then qualify as extremely low, low, or moderate income.

DVCAC's JSA program served a total of 2,660 victims in FY 2018; 113 in the Lakewood courts alone. DVCAC is the only agency addressing these issues in the Lakewood court systems. The Lakewood JSAP Advocate provides personal advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning, information and support for domestic violence victims involved in criminal and civil court proceedings in the City of Lakewood. While the Lakewood JSAP Advocates is typically initially connected with victims during the crisis following an incident of abuse, the advocate relationship may continue as long as the need for services exists. Support groups are ongoing and are held weekly throughout the year.

The total cost to provide this service to the City of Lakewood is \$30,857. DVCAC is requesting \$20,020 in Lakewood CDBG funding to continue to provide a designated Justice System Advocate for Lakewood victims of domestic violence and those involved in the Lakewood Municipal Court system. This amounts to a cost of \$167/person served.

**Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center  
Victim Advocacy Services**

**CDBG Eligibility Criteria**

The **Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center's Victim Advocacy Services Program** satisfies the following eligibility criteria and is therefore suitable for CDBG funding consideration.

**CDBG National Objective**

*Low-Moderate Income Limited Clientele (LMC):* Activities that benefit either a specific group of persons at least 51% of who are documented as low-moderate income or a clientele presumed by HUD to be principally low-moderate income (e.g. battered spouses, senior citizens).

**CDBG-Eligible Activity Category**

*Public Services:* The provision of public services including labor, supplies, materials, and the pro rata share of the facilities where these services are provided.

**HUD-Designated Performance Objective**

Create Suitable Living Environments

**HUD-Designated Performance Outcome**

Availability/Accessibility

## Agency Narrative

### 1. History/Background

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) has been a leader in Cuyahoga County for more than 40 years addressing issues of violence and abuse within families and between intimate partners. We envision a community in which all people enjoy lives free from violence and abuse and feel safe and secure in their relationships. Our model is grounded in self-determination and operates with a strength-based and empowerment philosophy that incorporates best practices and evidence-based strategies. DVCAC utilizes a comprehensive approach that focuses on breaking cycles of abuse through an array of prevention and intervention services at the personal, community, and systemic levels.

Our programs help people experiencing abuse to find strength and support as they determine their best path toward health and safety. We offer services to help heal from the trauma of abuse; provide community education to better understand the dynamics and warning signs of abusive relationships; and deliver training and advocacy for systems to better respond to family violence. DVCAC serves approximately 20,000 children, teens, adults and seniors annually. DVCAC is currently serving as the fiscal agent and collaborative partner in the creation of a formal Child Advocacy Center to serve victims of child abuse in Cuyahoga County.

DVCAC has a \$4.5 Million budget with 76 staff members and is governed by a 20 member board of directors.

### 2. Purpose/Mission

The mission of Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center is to empower individuals, educate the community and advocate for justice to end domestic violence and child abuse.

### 3. Geographic Service Area

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center serves victims of domestic violence, both male and female, in Cuyahoga County, a large urban county, population 1,248,514, with a central city, Cleveland, population 385,525.

### 4. Target Population

DVCAC serves all victims of domestic violence and/or child abuse who request our services regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

### 5. Services Provided

DVCAC services and programs include: a 24/7 domestic violence and family helpline; crisis intervention; safety planning; emergency shelter; justice system advocacy; support groups; parenting groups; individual and group trauma therapy; art therapy; culturally specific services; prevention education; and supervised visitation.

**6. Number & Demographic Profile of Clients Served (FY17)**

Demographic data collected on victims served in the JSAP Program in FY 2017, show that 35% of program participants identified as African American, 49% Caucasian, .5% Asian, 1% Multiracial, and .5% as other, and 8% identified as Hispanic. 6% did not report. JSAP Participants served during FY 2017 ranged in age from 18-65+.

The program continues to serve more male victims served in recent years. In FY 18, 13.5% of the clients served were male. The JSA Program serves more male victims than any other DVCAC program.

**7. Organizational Qualifications To Implement The Proposed Project**

DVCAC has a strong infrastructure, considerable expertise in managing both core services and new initiatives, and an experienced and dedicated staff. The agency has a 21 member voluntary Board of Directors who guide and make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO is responsible for the everyday operations of the agency and the oversight of a staff of 76: 49 full time employees, 23 part time/hourly employees, and over 300 volunteers.

The Justice System Advocacy Program is overseen by the Program Manager, Shelly Dudas, who has over 20 years of experience working with both victims and perpetrators at DVCAC. She holds a B.A. in Criminology / Sociology and is responsible for the hiring, training and oversight of Advocates. Shelly also provides direct services to JSAP clients. Janice Smith is the new Lakewood JSAP. Janice is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor II (LCDC II) with over 25 years of experience working with children and families. She has been with DVCAC since 2010, starting as a monitor in the Visitation Center. Since 2017, Janice has been a justice system advocate for the agency and became the Lakewood advocate in May of 2018.

**8. Capacity to Serve Non-English-Speaking Persons**

DVCAC works to insure that program staff reflects the diverse community which we serve. This includes bilingual staff, able to provide services in Spanish. DVCAC created and utilizes a Language Access and Communication policy that provides access to all services to victims with language barriers. Staff use many community resources to assist with clients who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), such as: ASIA Inc., Catholic Charities Immigrant Program, Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center and the Language Line which is a leader in innovative language access solutions, providing high quality phone translation, bilingual staff, and have linguists fluent in more than 240 languages. This service is available 24 hours a day; 365 days a year. DVCAC uses Video Remote Interpreting technology that assists the D/deaf and hard of hearing to communicate.

**9. Does your organization maintain the following?**

*Personnel Policy Manual*

Yes  No

*Affirmative Action Policy*

Yes  No

*Staff Grievance Procedures*

Yes  No

**10. Does your facility comply with ADA accessibility requirements?**

Yes

No

**11. Agency Budget*****FY18 Operating Expenditures***

<b>Expenditure Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% Budget</b>
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	2,945,842	71%
Operating Costs	1,223,622	29%
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>4,169,464</b>	<b>100%</b>

***Top (3) FY18 Revenue Sources***

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% Budget</b>
VOCA – JSAP	478,641	11%
VOCA - Shelter	457,704	10%
OVW	312,747	7%
<b>Total</b>		

## Project Narrative

### 1. Unmet Community Needs & Service Gaps Addressed

The work of DVCAC's Lakewood Justice System Advocate provides victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse with services that research has shown make them safer. The Advocate can de-mystify the court process, alert victims to potential consequences of the arrest of the perpetrator, explain next steps, and, most importantly provide support and access to resources they may need going forward. Community advocates typically address the range of issues that victims must negotiate: housing, physical and mental health needs, financial support, children's issues, etc. An evaluation of an outreach and legal advocacy program involving community-based advocates, system-based victim specialists, and law enforcement demonstrated that victim participants obtain significantly better criminal justice and safety outcomes than those victims in the control group (DePrince et al, 2012). Broad-based advocacy has shown to result in decreased risk of re-abuse as well as increased access to community resources, higher social support, and higher mental health and well-being. (*Advocacy Services for Women with Abusive Partners: A Review of the Empirical Evidence*, Domestic Violence Evidence Project, Sullivan, 2012)

Often, domestic violence victims turn to the police or the court, unaware of other entities able to provide immediate assistance. Patrol officers and detectives give victims basic information about their rights under domestic violence statutes and some referral information. However, officers do not have the time or expertise to assist victims with more detailed referral information, safety planning and accessing culturally responsive services. According to CrimeReports™ posted by the Lakewood Police Department, in one month (June 1 – August 1, 2018) Lakewood Police responded to 25 calls reporting a family offense: (10) domestic violence calls, (11) violations of a protection order, and (4) child endangerment calls. (Domestic violence is a major indicator of child abuse in the home.) Lakewood Police know that they can contact DVCAC whenever there is a report of a domestic violence incident and that the JSAP advocate will provide the necessary information and support to the victim.

Victims may also need pro-bono legal assistance to help with the complex issues they face. Studies report that assistance with obtaining protection/restraining orders, child custody, divorce, and child support were the most sought-after legal services and additional assistance with violations of protection orders, housing issues, child protective services hearings, public benefits denials, financial issues, immigration, and criminal defense were in great demand. (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2011). DVCAC is the only agency addressing these issues in the Lakewood court systems.

It is important to note that when a victim leaves a domestic violence situation their economic status is often altered and in most cases these victims then qualify as extremely low, low or moderate income. An impediment to a domestic violence victim securing independence is the lack of financial means. Usually, the abuser has total control of the family finances. Homelessness and the resulting vacant housing and/or ability to maintain a home impacts our communities. When this occurs, Advocates provide the personal advocacy necessary to help victims obtain restraining orders on the family assets, thereby assuring the victim has some means of support.

When victims are stabilized and able to remain in their own homes and communities, it helps to reduce the considerable individual and community impact that can accompany transience – empty properties, destabilization of schools when students leave or join classrooms mid-school year, etc. Stability also means that victims are more likely to be able to maintain current employment – thereby contributing financially to the community via local purchases and taxes. DVCAC’s presence helps to spread the message that domestic violence is taken seriously and not tolerated in Lakewood.

DVCAC’s JSA program served a total of 2,660 victims in FY 2018; the Lakewood Advocate provided services to 113 clients in the Lakewood court.

## **2. Target Population & Outreach Efforts to Potential Beneficiaries**

Domestic violence crosses all segments of society regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, and DVCAC’s Lakewood Justice System Advocate provides legal and judicial advocacy services to any victim requesting our services. Through our outreach efforts, JSAP is a vital referral source for many social service providers in the City of Lakewood.

The Justice System Advocacy Program works to provide support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence throughout the justice system process. Best practice links the victim with an advocate after a call from the police alerting the advocate that an incident of domestic violence has occurred, or after a direct call to our hotline from the victim themselves. Our Lakewood Advocate works collaboratively with the Lakewood Police Department, which has gone above and beyond this best practice protocol. The LPD will call DVCAC even when there is no arrest made or when responding to a report of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). This relationship between our agency and the LPD ensures service delivery to all victims in the city. Victims are also referred by court personnel, social service providers, clergy and former clients.

The Lakewood JSAP works primarily with victims directly in the court setting. This eliminates the need for victims (who are typically already overwhelmed) to have to travel to an additional site. It also allows for the advocate to directly accompany victims through the court process. While advocates and victims are typically initially connected during the crisis following an incident of abuse, the advocate relationship may continue as long as the need for services exists. Depending on the length of involvement and individual needs, follow up services may also be provided via phone call/or meetings at secure community-based locations. A community support group is held at a confidential location in, or near, Lakewood. This support group is ongoing and is held weekly throughout the year.

## **3. Geographic Service Area**

The Justice System Advocacy Program provides service to Lakewood, city-wide.

#### 4. Primary Goals & Objectives

The goal of the Lakewood JSA Program is to improve the justice system to assure that victims of abuse in Lakewood achieve safety, autonomy, health, well-being, independence, financial restitution, and justice.

Between 1/1/2019-12/31/2019:

- 120 households/victims of domestic violence in the Lakewood court system will receive services from the Lakewood JSAP;
- Approximately 50 community-based support groups for victims in Lakewood will be facilitated by DVCAC JSAP advocates;
- Monthly Lakewood JSAP reports will be submitted to Lakewood's Development Officer;
- Information will be distributed to Lakewood Law Enforcement and Court Personnel.

#### 5. Activities Undertaken/Services Provided & Delivery Strategy

The Lakewood JSAP Advocate:

- Monitors police calls to the Helpline from police reporting domestic violence and stalking arrests and reviews court dockets to determine need for Justice System Advocacy Services on a daily basis.
- Provides information and referral to all services provided by the agency including safe shelter and the full range of adult, teen and child counseling/therapy.
- Contacts victims involved in the court process in person or via the phone to offer services and explain the program on a daily basis.
- Provides victims with information about the safety planning process including protection orders, as needed.
- Provides court escorts as needed.
- Conducts follow-up calls to provide support, information, and further safety planning assistance as needed.
- Conducts follow-up calls to answer further questions about the legal process and provides information and referrals, as needed.

#### 6. Primary Staff Responsible for Program Administration & Implementation

Job Title	Hours/Week Devoted to Program	% CDBG Funded	Brief Summary of Responsibilities
Lakewood Justice System Advocate	20	65%	Provide advocacy support, court escorts, information, referral, and case management services. Facilitate support groups
Justice Affairs Manager	1	0%	Supervise Lakewood Advocate, prepare monthly reports to Lakewood Development Officer
JSAP Advocate	2	0%	Provide additional advocacy and support when needed
JSAP Volunteer	2	0%	Assist Advocate and/or Support Group Facilitator with provision of services

## 7. Project Implementation Schedule

Milestone	Completion Deadline
Lakewood JSAP Advocate provides safety planning, referrals, court escorts, and services to participants.	On-going
Lakewood JSAP Advocate and volunteer(s) facilitate weekly community-based Support Groups for domestic violence victims in Lakewood	On-going
DVCAC marketing materials distributed by Lakewood JSAP Advocate to Lakewood court personnel, law enforcement, and other pertinent stakeholders in the community to promote DVCAC services, helpline number, and Justice System Advocate Program	1/1/2019, and when needed
JSAP Justice Affairs Manager sends reports to Lakewood Development Officer	Monthly

## 8. Beneficiaries (January 1 – December 31, 2019)

Unduplicated Persons Served - **120**

Unduplicated Low-Moderate Income Persons Served - **80**

## 9. Program Evaluation

- **Data Collection Tools-** Database, Ohio Attorney General's Outcome Measure Survey.
- **Outcome Measurement Procedures/Methodology** - DVCAC keeps accurate statistics and records for all services including number of clients, demographic data and types of services provided. All data is entered into a comprehensive database system (Osnum) which is monitored by the Justice Affairs Manager. Data is collected at point of service via survey. DVCAC utilizes the Ohio Attorney General's Outcome Measure Survey Results Report. Surveys are distributed by the Justice System Advocates and are tabulated and analyzed by the Justice Affairs Manager.

## 10. Strategy for Coordination with the City & Community Partners

DVCAC coordinates with a variety of community partners in the city of Lakewood. The Lakewood JSA advocate collaborates almost daily with the Lakewood Prosecutors Office and the Lakewood Municipal Court. Our work with the LPD is collaborative and on-going. Recently, the JSA Advocates provided training on the DVCAC Helpline to the police department during their role calls. .

## 11. Additional Information and/or Data That Will Assist Lakewood's Citizens Advisory Committee and City Staff in Evaluating this Funding Request

DVCAC also works to educate justice system personnel and other allied professionals about the impact and dynamics of domestic violence, building partnerships that will insure that victims are able to receive coordinated, comprehensive services and systems access. With this in mind, Justice System Advocates provide information, education and materials about domestic violence to law enforcement and justice system personnel. They work to advocate both for individual victims, and for procedures and processes in each court which will emphasize the safety of victims.

This request for funding is significantly higher than what we have asked for in past years. While we realize that any award is dependent on the City's level of federal funding and the number of worthy projects submitted, DVAC wanted to show the real cost of providing justice system advocacy services to the citizens of Lakewood.

## 12. Project Budget

### Expenses

Expense Category	Total Project (A)	CDBG Funds(B)	CDBG % of Total (B/A)
<b>Personnel</b>			
Salaries	22,986	15,000	65%
Fringe Benefits	7,451	4,750	64%
<b>Sub-Total Personnel</b>	<b>30,437</b>	<b>26,696</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Overhead &amp; Operations</b>			
Rent/Lease			
Insurance			
Materials & Supplies			
Professional Services			
Postage			
Travel	300	150	50%
Utilities/Telephone	120	120	100%
Insurance			
Equipment			
Indirect Costs <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Sub-Total Overhead &amp; Ops</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>30,857</b>	<b>20,020</b>	<b>65%</b>
<sup>1</sup> Indirect costs may not be paid with CDBG funds			

### Funding Sources

Source	Requested	Committed	Total
Agency Funds		10,837	
CDBG FY18-FY19 CDBG Carry Forward Funds (Est)			
Other (Non-CDBG) Federal			
State			
Local			
County			
Private (Foundations, Individuals, etc....)			
Earned Revenue/Fees			
In-Kind/Volunteer (@ \$15/Hour)			
<b>Lakewood FY19 CDBG Funding Request</b>	<b>20,020</b>		
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>	<b>20,020</b>	<b>10,837</b>	<b>30,857</b>