

## **Journey Center for Safety & Healing**

### **Applicant Narrative**

#### **1. Mission & History**

Journey Center for Safety and Healing (Journey), formerly Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center, has been a leader in Cuyahoga County for almost 45 years addressing issues of violence and abuse within families and between intimate partners. Journey's mission is to provide services that foster safety and healing to those affected by child abuse and domestic violence and to prevent abuse through education, advocacy and systemic change. Journey envisions a community where safety and well-being are achieved by empowering people to find a path toward healthy, thriving relationships. Journey utilizes a comprehensive approach, incorporating best practices and evidence-based strategies that include programs for crisis intervention; early intervention; helping people heal from abuse and have healthier relationships; community education to better understand the dynamics and warning signs of abusive relationships; and training and advocacy for systems to better respond to family violence.

#### **2. Geographic Service Area**

Services provided through this request will be to domestic violence victims in Lakewood, a suburban city with a total area of 5.53 square miles with a population of 52,131. Demographics for the city show that 83.2% are Caucasian; 6.3% are African American; 5.3% are Hispanic; and 6.2% identify as other races.

#### **3. Target Population(s)**

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.

#### **4. Programs & Services**

Journey serves over 15,000 children, teens, adults and seniors annually with programs that include: a 24/7 helpline; crisis intervention; safety planning; emergency shelter; justice system advocacy; support groups; individual and group therapy; art therapy; culturally specific services; Canopy Child Advocacy Center; and supervised visitation.

#### **5. Number & Demographic Profile of Clients Served (FY19)**

Demographic data collected on victims served in the JSAP Program in FY 2018, show that 42% of program participants identified as African American, 40% Caucasian, .5% Asian, 2.4% Multiracial, and 2.4% as other, and 3.5% identified as Hispanic. JSAP Participants served during FY 2020 ranged in age from 18-65+.

#### **6. Qualifications to Implement Proposed Project**

Journey has a strong infrastructure, considerable expertise in managing both core services and new initiatives, and an experienced and dedicated staff. The agency has a 20 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 81: 53 full time employees, 16 part time/hourly employees, and 12 PRN.

The Justice System Advocacy Program is overseen by the Chief Inclusion & Advocacy Officer, Shelly Dudas, who has over 20 years of experience working with both victims and perpetrators at Journey. She holds a B.A. in Criminology / Sociology and is responsible for the hiring, training and oversight of Advocates. Janice Smith is a Lakewood JSA. 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 Journey since 2010, starting as a monitor in the Safe & Sound Supervised Visitation Center. Janice has been with the Justice System Advocacy Program since 2017 and became the Lakewood Advocate in May of 2018. Also providing advocacy services in Lakewood is Jennifer M. Johnson who has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Jennifer has advanced knowledge in the criminal justice field and experience in coordinating victim advocacy services.

**7. FY20 Organizational Budget**

**Total FY20 Operating Budget**                      \$4,665,877

**FY20 Operating Expenses**

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% Total Budget</b>
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	3,293,313	71%
Operating Costs	1,372,564	29%
Capital Costs	0	0%
Indirect Costs	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,665,877</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Top 3 FY20 Revenue Sources**

<b>#</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% Total Budget</b>
1	VOCA – Canopy Child Advocacy Center	692,001	14%
2	Off. Of Violence Against Women Justice for Families	550,000	11%
3	VOCA - Shelter	438,064	9%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,680,065</b>	<b>34%</b>

**8. Does your organization maintain the following documents?**

*Personnel Manual/Grievance Procedures*                      Yes                       No   
*Affirmative Action Policy*    Yes                       No

**9. Capacity to serve non-English-speaking persons?**                      Yes                       No

**10. Do your facilities comply with ADA accessibility requirements?**    Yes                       No

**11. Additional Data and/or Information Not Previously Requested That Strengthens the Organization's Case for CDBG Funding Support**

Journey Center for Safety and Healing is faced with steep funding cuts from the United Way and government grants. These cuts could be as much as 30%. The agency fears that it will not be able to serve as many victims of domestic violence and child abuse across our county. Journey expects to receive a significant cut to the 4 programs funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), including the Justice System Advocacy Program.