



**FY21 Community Development Block Grant
Funding Application**

Organization	Journey Center for Safety and Healing
Organization Type	Not-for-Profit
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Project/Program Name	Victim Advocacy Services
Total FY21 Project Budget	\$54,466
FY21 CDBG Funding Request	\$16,938

**Journey Center for Safety and Healing
Victim Advocacy Services Program**

CDBG Eligibility Criteria

Journey Center for Safety and Healing's **Victim Advocacy Services Program** satisfies the following Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) eligibility criteria and therefore is suitable for 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 Outcomes

Availability & Accessibility

ABSTRACT

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.

Journey has engaged in justice system advocacy on behalf of victims of relationship violence and their children for over 25 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. Journey'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 Lakewood Municipal Court.

The Advocate provides victims of domestic violence with services that research has shown to make them safer. Advocates 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. National Institute of Justice research shows that when advocates reach out to victims in "coordinated, early, victim-focused interventions," they 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, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status. Importantly however, 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.

The JSA Program served a total of 2,864 victims in FY 2019; 111 in the Lakewood courts alone. Journey is the only agency addressing these issues in the Lakewood court systems. The 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.

The total cost to provide this service to the City of Lakewood is \$54,466/year. Journey is requesting \$16,938 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 is a cost of \$153/person served.

I. PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. Community Needs Addressed

Journey has long since recognized that the environment in which one lives impacts the health of an individual. Domestic violence takes a physical and mental toll on those experiencing the abuse. Research shows a strong connection between the experience of having been maltreated and the risk for chronic and sometimes life-threatening conditions. Hypertension and cardiovascular disease are directly correlated to a victim's prolonged exposure to the stress and trauma experienced. Victims of domestic violence are also at higher risk for developing addictions to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs (Heise L, Garcia-Moreno C. 2002).

Domestic violence calls are often the number one call to police departments, and one of the most dangerous for officers to respond to. Domestic violence victims frequently 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. Lakewood Police know that they can contact Journey whenever there is a report of a domestic violence incident and that the JSAP advocate will provide 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).

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. Journey's presence helps to spread the message that domestic violence is taken seriously and not tolerated in Lakewood.

Research conducted by the National Institute of Justice shows that when advocates reach out to victims in "coordinated, early, victim-focused interventions," they 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, A.P., et al. *The Impact of Victim-Focused Outreach on Criminal Legal System Outcomes Following Police-Reported Intimate Partner Abuse*. 2012).

The work of a justice system advocate is to provide safety, emotional support, and connections to Journey's trauma services program and other agency services, community resources for mental and physical health needs, drug and alcohol counseling, housing, childcare needs, etc. Through trust and support, clients involved with the Lakewood court can address their trauma, increase their safety, increase their well-being, and decrease their risk of repeated reliance on hospital resources for emergency or chronic care. Journey believes that this level of holistic support is critical to the health and well-being of survivors of abuse and therefore a good investment for Lakewood's CDBG funding.

2. 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 1/1/2021-12/31/2021:

- 120 households/victims of domestic violence in the Lakewood court system will receive services from the Lakewood JSAP;
- Monthly Lakewood JSAP reports will be submitted to Lakewood's Development Officer;
- Information will be distributed to Lakewood Law Enforcement and Court Personnel.

3. Program Design, Uniqueness & Innovation

The work of Journey's Lakewood Justice System Advocate provides victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse with services that research has shown make them safer. And most importantly, provides support and access to resources they may need going forward. The Advocate typically addresses the range of issues that victims must negotiate including housing, physical and mental health needs, financial support, children's issues, etc. Broad-based advocacy has shown to result in decreased risk of further abuse as well as increased access to community resources, higher social support, and higher mental health and well-being (Sullivan, 2012). Journey is the only agency addressing these issues in the Lakewood court systems.

4. Target Population(s)

The Lakewood JSA serves all victims of domestic violence and/or child abuse in the City of Lakewood 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. Importantly however, 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. Based on HUD guidelines "very low income" is based on 50% of area median; moderate income relies on Section 8 "lower income" limits, which are generally tied to 80% of area median.

5. Geographic Service Area

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

6. Services Provided & Delivery Strategy

Services are fluid and based on each victim's unique situation. The Lakewood JSAP Advocate provide:

- Safety planning & risk assessments
- Protection order assistance
- Court escorts
- An explanation of all applicable court processes and options, with an emphasis on safety and self-determination
- Personal advocacy including assisting victims in securing rights, locating emergency financial assistance, intervening with employers, creditors, and others on behalf of the victim, assisting in filing for losses covered by public and private insurance programs, accompanying the victim to the hospital, etc.
- Information for victims/survivors
- Connections to all Journey services including trauma therapy
- Resources and referrals to community services and supports include housing, childcare, transportation, legal and immigration services, therapy, and primary health care for as long as needed
- Virtual support groups are offered.

7. Outreach Strategy & Efforts

The Lakewood Justice System Advocate (JSA) works in the Lakewood courts providing advocacy, support, information, court escorts, safety planning assistance and referrals to any victim of domestic violence who is involved in the legal system or who is considering legal options to increase safety. The JSA continually reaches out to the courts with information about resources for victims through Journey. Through deep relationships with the courts and law enforcement Journey has built a tremendous presence and availability to Lakewood victims. In addition to outreach and information, the JSA works with law enforcement and judicial systems to implement policy and protocol best practices that are victim-friendly. The Lakewood Justice System Advocate not only serves victims, but also impacts systems change to improve outcomes and safety.

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. The Lakewood JSA works collaboratively with the Lakewood Police Department, which has gone above and beyond this best practice protocol. The LPD will call Journey even when there is no arrest made or when responding to a report of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

Through outreach efforts, JSAP is a vital referral source for many social service providers in the City of Lakewood. Typically, advocates and victims are initially connected during the crisis following an incident of abuse, but 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. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, weekly in-house support groups have been suspended. Virtual support groups are available.

8. Community Partnerships & Stakeholders

Journey 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. The agency's work with the Lakewood Police Department is collaborative and on-going.

9. Staffing

Title	Hours/Week Devoted to Program	% CDBG Funded	Qualifications & Responsibilities
Lakewood Justice System Advocate	20	30%	LCDC II with 20 years of experience. Provides advocacy support, court escorts, information, referral, and case management services. Facilitates on-line support groups
Chief Inclusion & Advocacy Officer	1	0%	Supervises Lakewood Advocate, prepare monthly reports to Lakewood Development Officer
JSAP Coordinator	2	0%	Provides additional advocacy and support when needed

10. Implementation Schedule

Milestone	Completion Deadline
Lakewood JSAP Advocate provides safety planning, referrals, court escorts, and services to participants.	On-going
Lakewood JSAP Advocate facilitates on-line Support Groups for domestic violence victims in Lakewood	As needed
Journey marketing materials distributed by Lakewood JSAP Advocate to Lakewood court personnel, law enforcement, and other pertinent stakeholders in the community to promote Journey services, helpline number, and Justice System Advocate Program	1/1/2021, and when needed
JSAP Chief Inclusion & Advocacy Officer sends reports to Lakewood Development Officer	Monthly

11. Projected Beneficiaries (January 1 – December 31, 2021)

	Persons	Households
Total Unduplicated Persons & Households to be Served	120	120
Unduplicated Low-Moderate Income* Persons & Households to be Served	80	80

*<80% Area Median Income

12. Program Evaluation

(data collection & analysis, outcome measurement procedures & methodology)

- **Data Collection Tools-** Database, Ohio Attorney General's Outcome Measure Survey.
- **Outcome Measurement Procedures/Methodology** - Journey 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. Journey 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.

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

Journey also works to educate justice system personnel and other allied professionals about the impact and dynamics of domestic violence, building partnerships that will ensure 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.

Journey realizes that any award is dependent on the City's level of federal funding and the number of worthy projects submitted. This request and the budget shown reflects the real cost of providing justice system advocacy services to the citizens of Lakewood.

II. FY21 PROGRAM BUDGET

1. Expenses

Expense Category	Total Project (A)	CDBG Funds(B)	CDBG % of Total (B/A)
Personnel			
Salaries	41,763	12,538	30%
Fringe Benefits	12,325	4,022	30%
Sub-Total Personnel	54,088	16,560	30%
Overhead & Operations			
Rent/Lease			
Insurance			
Materials & Supplies			
Professional Services			
Postage			
Travel	300	300	100%
Utilities/Telephone	78	78	100%
Insurance			
Equipment			
<i>Other</i>			
Sub-Total Overhead & Ops	378	378	100%
Total Project Costs	54,466	16,938	100%

2. Funding Sources

Source	Requested	Committed	Total
Agency Funds			
CDBG FY20-FY21 CDBG Carry Forward Funds (Est)			
Other (Non-CDBG) Federal		37,528	37,528
State			
Local			
County			
Private (Foundations, Individuals, Other)			
Earned Revenue/Fees			
In-Kind/Volunteer (@ \$15/Hour)			
<i>Other</i>			
FY21 City of Lakewood CDBG Funding Request	16,938		16,938
Total Funding Sources	16,938	37,528	54,466

III. FY21 BUDGET NARRATIVE

1. Describe how City of Lakewood CDBG funds be utilized to support the proposed program.

Personnel Costs of \$16,560 are calculated at 30% of salary, FICA, and health/dental insurance of the Lakewood JSA.

Travel Cost of \$300 is calculated on an estimated 1,000 miles x \$.30/mile.

Cell Phone costs of \$78 is calculated at \$6.50/month x 12 months.

2. Describe how the proposed program would function if it does not receive full amount of requested funding.

Without the support of Lakewood CDBG funding, Journey would have to significantly reduce the number of hours that the Lakewood JSA devotes to serving Lakewood residents.

3. Describe the agency's efforts to develop/leverage other sources of funding to support the proposed program.

Journey annually applies for and receives funding through the U.S. Department of Justice Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding through the Ohio Attorney General's Office for the entire JSAP program.

Journey was also successful in receiving a grant in CY 2020 from the Three Arches Foundation for the Lakewood JSA. We will be applying again this year.