

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN ASHTABULA COUNTY, THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, THE ASHTABULA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND HOMESAFE, INC.

WHEREAS, a Partnership Agreement has been presented for the collaboration on a grant proposal "Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Ashtabula County", for the approval of the Board, to-wit:

WHEREAS, **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Ashtabula County, Ashtabula Prosecutor's Office, and Homesafe, Inc.** have come together to collaborate on a grant proposal "Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking in Ashtabula County" and application for FY 2022 Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the applicant and partners have entered into a partnership to jointly apply for the FY 2022 ICJR Grant Program. The applicant and partners worked collaboratively on the grant application and agree to collaborate on the implementation of the project, should it be selected for funding.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center will be the lead agency and named applicant and the other organization will be partners in this application; and

WHEREAS, the applicant and partners agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the project partners using information obtained during the planning phase outlined in the FY 2022 ICJR Solicitation

I) Partner Agency Information

- 1) **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC)** functions to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse, promote healing and prevention and advocate for social change. CRCC was founded in 1974 in response to Northeast Ohio's persistent and growing need for services to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Over the last 48 years, CRCC has grown from a grassroots, volunteer-run hotline, to a 85-employee nonprofit and national leader in providing counseling services, victim assistance in the justice system, and 24-hour services to survivors of rape and sexual abuse across four counties. CRCC will provide project management efforts related to the grant through the dedicated Advocacy Coordinator. This new, full-time position will fill the coordinator requirement for the grant and will correspond with OVW throughout funding period, as outlined in the RFP. CRCC will also provide additional staff time, equipment, and supplies as needed to complete project activities.
- 2) **Ashtabula County** is overseen by a three-member Board of County Commissioners, the main administrative agency of the county. The Board of Commissioners approves the annual budget, levies taxes for county purposes, issues bonds for capital improvements, and serves as the purchasing and contracting agent for the County. The County will provide support for the project and will participate in trainings, as appropriate, and will utilize their positions to encourage participation and improvements in the overall systems which victims encounter.
- 3) **Ashtabula Prosecutor's Office** provides the citizens of Ashtabula County with a safe effective and sustained justice system representing the rights and interest of the citizens, office holders and victims of Ashtabula County, including victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Prosecuting Attorney acts as the chief law enforcement officer for the County. This partner will receive funds to hire a part-time coordinator position who will work closely with CRCC's Advocacy Coordinator. The individual will provide assistance with scheduling, training, and policy review efforts detailed in the grant application.
- 4) **Homesafe, Inc. (Homesafe)** is a domestic violence shelter and service provider with over 40 years of experience providing services to survivors of domestic violence in Ashtabula County. The agency's mission is to provide

emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence throughout Northeast Ohio. While CRCC has experience and expertise in serving survivors of sexual violence of all kinds, Homesafe brings vital expertise and experience in serving survivors of domestic and family violence. Homesafe will provide services including shelter, crisis intervention, case management, victim advocacy, trauma counseling, and coordination of care for victims. The agency will receive funding through this grant that will cover the cost of a half-time Trauma Therapist within CRCC's Ashtabula office.

III) Commitment to Partnership

- 1) The service area includes **Ashtabula County, Ohio**.
- 2) The partners agree to collaborate and provide support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.
- 3) Compensation for partners' contributions to this project will be provided as outlined in the attached OVW budget detail worksheet.
- 4) We, the undersigned have read and agree with this Application Partnership Agreement. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and proposed budget, and have approved it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio that the Participation Agreement as noted above is approved in accordance with the copy now on file in this office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, is authorized to execute any and all necessary documents, upon receipt of the budget, pursuant to the partnership agreement.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2022-228

April 26, 2022

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN ASHTABULA COUNTY, THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, THE ASHTABULA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND HOMESAFE, INC.

Upon the motion of Casey R. Kozlowski, seconded by Kathryn L. Whittington.

VOTE:

J.P. Ducro IV

Casey R. Kozlowski

Kathryn L. Whittington

Aye

Aye

Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.

Crystal Sturgill
Crystal Sturgill, Clerk of the Board, *Acting*
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio

Partnership Agreement

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Cleveland, OH 44113

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(216) 619-6192 24/7 Hotline
clevelandrapecrisis.org

the justice system, and 24-hour services to survivors of rape and sexual abuse across four counties.

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By _____

Sondra Miller

President & Chief Executive Officer

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Date _____



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By J.P. Ducro TR

J.P. Ducro, IV

President of the Board of County Commissioners

Ashtabula County

Date 4/26/2022

By Colleen O'Toole

Colleen O'Toole

Prosecuting Attorney

Ashtabula Prosecutor's Office

4/26/2022

By _____

Julie Sundquist

Executive Director

Homesafe, Inc.

Date _____



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ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
J. P. Ducro IV
Casey R. Kozlowski
Kathryn L. Whittington



25 W. Jefferson St.
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commissioners@ashtabulacounty.us

April 26, 2022

Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10 W.121
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program Certification of Eligibility

Dear Director:

As a County Commissioner of Ashtabula County, Ohio, I submit this letter to certify to the following:

1. The laws or official policies of Ashtabula County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders based on probable cause that an offense has been committed;
2. The laws or official policies of Ashtabula County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders who violate the terms of a valid and outstanding protection order;
3. The laws, policies, or practices and the training programs of Ashtabula County discourage dual arrests of offender and victim;
4. The laws, policies, or practices of Ashtabula County prohibit issuance of mutual restraining orders of protection except in cases where both parties file a claim and the court makes detailed findings of fact indicating that both parties acted primarily as aggressors and that neither party acted primarily in self-defense;
5. The laws, policies, and practices of Ashtabula County do not require, in connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking offense, or in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order, to protect a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order, or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction; and
6. The laws, policies or practices of Ashtabula County ensure that:
 - a. No law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall ask or require an adult, youth, or child victim of a sex offense as defined under federal, tribal, state, territorial, or local law to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for such an offense; and
 - b. The refusal of a victim to submit to an examination described in subparagraph (A) shall not prevent the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for the offense.

Sincerely,

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners

J. P. Ducro IV, President

Casey Kozlowski, Vice-President

Kathryn Whittington, Commissioner

cc: Prosecutor Colleen O'Toole

What Will Be Done

Overall Strategy to be Used and Necessary Tasks/Activities to Accomplish Goals

In this project, CRCC will be addressing Purpose Area #5: To strengthen legal advocacy service programs and other victim services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including strengthening assistance to such victims in immigration matters. In order to strengthen victim services in Ashtabula County as a whole, CRCC, the county, and additional project partners recognize that improvements can and should be made in multiple agencies. Although the project will be mainly headed and carried out by CRCC, collaboration will be essential to project success. During the required planning phase for the first grant year, CRCC anticipates focusing heavily on determining the best way to approach project activity implementation. The necessary activities have been identified, but the coordination of these activities and day-to-day efforts will be discussed further to ensure activities are completed in the most effective and efficient manner.

Collaboration will be key during the entirety of the proposed project. Consultations with project partners will be pivotal during the planning phase, as CRCC will be dedicated to working with partners to determine what their needs are and ensure project plans are responsive to those needs (i.e. knowledge gaps of staff, which policies/procedures need work, etc.).

During the implementation phase, CRCC will enhance its presence within Ashtabula County. CRCC does currently serve survivors in the county through a designated Trauma Therapist and Case Manager. However, a grant through this OVW program will enable CRCC to hire a full-time Advocacy Coordinator, who will exclusively engage with project partners and survivors in Ashtabula County and provide any other necessary services. Embedding this staff member will ensure that survivors are receiving the full range of services they need in a timely

manner, depending on their unique situations. This individual will also fulfill the required project coordinator role.

While this position will increase CRCC's presence in the county and provide services and advocacy, there will also be efforts to improve criminal justice responses to crimes involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through partner efforts. Funding from this OVW award will also support a part-time coordinator role within the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office. This individual will work closely with CRCC's Advocacy Coordinator on relevant project activities. Additionally, funding will enable Homesafe to provide a full-time Trauma Therapist within CRCC's office. Currently, the therapist from Homesafe is only part-time. These additional hours will ensure that survivors of domestic violence are receiving the specific services and referrals they need.

Funding will also support training sessions and assistance in revamping and updating relevant policies for law enforcement agencies. These agencies will include the prosecutor's office and sheriff's office, and the offer will also be extended to police departments within the county.

All of the following outcomes will be measured and tracked using OVW's performance progress reports and guided by the project's required strategic plan, which will be developed during the planning phase in year one. Data regarding clients served will be tracked and housed within CRCC's electronic record system, Apricot.

Outcome #1: The enhancement of criminal justice responses to incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking through building upon the knowledge of law enforcement staff and updating of relevant agency policies and procedures.

Outcome #2: The establishment of a multi-disciplinary team in the county to review sexual assault and human trafficking cases quarterly.

Outcome #3: An increase in the number of survivors served by CRCC in Ashtabula County, directly related to the embedding of a dedicated Advocacy Coordinator within the county.

Outcome #4: The successful tailoring of training to fit the needs of various law enforcement groups to enhance their understanding of engaging with survivors of sexual assault and rape, including topics such as trauma response, victim engagement, implicit bias, and trauma-informed interviewing.

Below is a tentative list of project activities that CRCC and project partners anticipate during the four grant years in order to achieve set goals/objectives:

Year 1 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023)

- Identify and assign Advocacy Coordinator to Ashtabula County.
- Conduct informal needs assessment to determine highest priorities in implementing grant program.
- Create or connect with a coordinated community response (CCR) with project partners and relevant stakeholders in the community.
- Identify evidenced-informed practices and/or tools that may be implemented at the agency and community level as part of the proposed project.
- Utilize OVW culturally specific and underserved populations TTA providers to identify organizations that work primarily with culturally and/or underserved populations, develop relationships with organizations that serve these populations and include organizations in the communities' ongoing CCR work.
- Develop and finalize strategic plan for the project.

- Tailor training to fit the needs of law enforcement groups that will be used to enhance knowledge of law enforcement involving crimes involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and responding to those crimes.
- Conduct outreach within Ashtabula County to alert victims of the services available to them and their rights.
- Review victim outcomes within current system.

Year 2 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

- Conduct SART conference based on the training and professional development needs determined.
- Conduct outreach throughout Ashtabula County to alert victims of the services available to them and their rights.

Year 3 (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025)

- Determine continued training and development needs.
- Tailor training and professional development based on the needs within the systems.
- Conduct SART conference.
- Conduct outreach throughout Ashtabula County to alert victims of the services available to them and their rights.

Year 4 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026)

- Determine continued training and development needs.
- Tailor training and professional development based on the needs within the systems.
- Conduct SART conference.
- Conduct outreach throughout Ashtabula County to alert victims of the services available to them and their rights.

Why Project will be Successful

CRCC is optimistic that the project will be successful, mainly because relationships have already been established between CRCC, Ashtabula County, the prosecutor's office, Homesafe, and various law enforcement agencies within the county. Each agency recognizes that there are gaps in service and work to be done to combat the stigma surrounding sexual assault, rape, and domestic violence; each agency is incredibly motivated to address these gaps and implement strategies to enhance responses to crime and services for survivors.

Additionally, CRCC anticipates project success due to the fact that funding will enable a permanent, full-time CRCC coordinator to focus solely on the needs of the county and the completion of project activities. The Advocacy Coordinator will play a pivotal role within the project, both acting as an advocate for survivors and working to implement other project strategies and components. This individual will not only work with survivors directly, they will also ensure that project activities are completed and that, ultimately, the responses to crimes involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are strengthened in the county as a whole. The Advocacy Coordinator will largely focus on the implementation of the project and providing advocacy services for Ashtabula County clients.

