



FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION & SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

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OHIO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant Program 2004 Annual Report

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Introduction

On July 1, 2005, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) merged with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, thereby strengthening the state's ability to work with and support local family violence programs and shelters. OCJS remains the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, training, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities.

OCJS was designated by Governor Bob Taft to administer the Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS) Program funds in Ohio for 2004. Ohio awarded the FVPS funds to prevent incidents of family violence, and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Annual Report summarizes and describes the collective experiences of the OCJS-funded FVPS projects. The information, herein contained, was obtained from two sources: semi-annual performance reports and a supplemental survey completed at the end of the funding period. The survey covers four broad topics: how projects met the needs of underserved populations; what prevention activities projects undertook; how projects assessed their activities; and what success stories these projects experienced. This report is presented in a two-part format: Data Elements and Performance Report Information, following the federal guidelines.

A list of all 2004-funded Family Violence Prevention and Services projects is included in Attachment A. This information indicates the names of agencies that received funding and the amount of support obtained. See Attachment B for the supplemental survey response from each project.

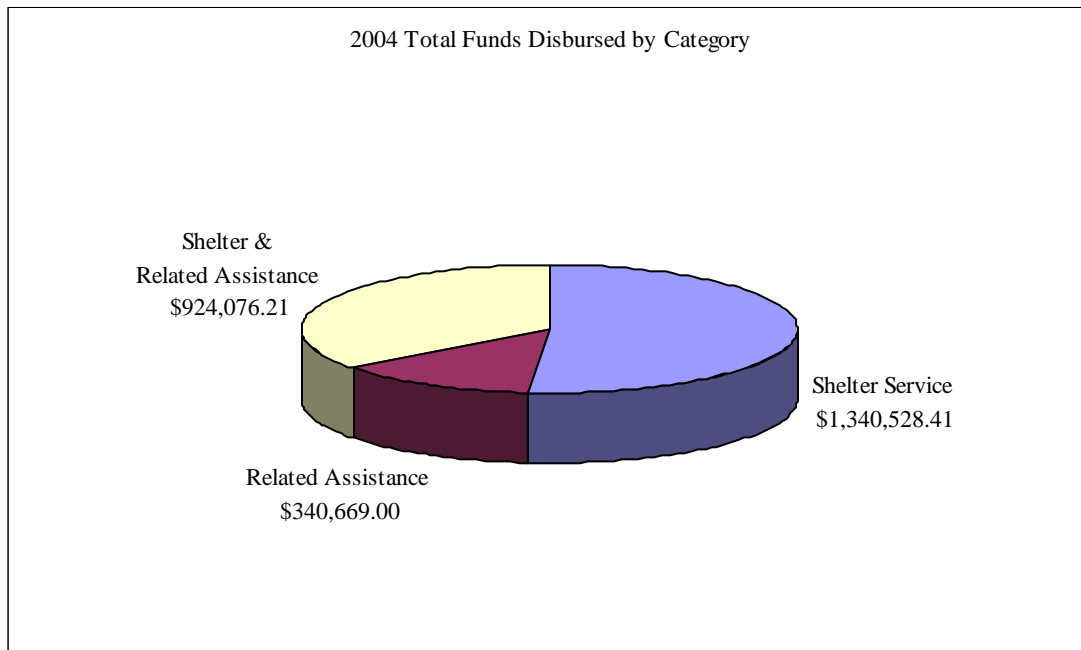
Data Elements

Funding

OCJS received \$2,782,908.00 in federal funds to prevent incidents of family violence and provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their families. Ohio distributed \$2,605,273.62 in competitive grants throughout the state. The composition of the 60 projects funded includes: 1 statewide initiative, 54 shelters (out of 65 total in the state of Ohio), 2 projects serving underserved populations, and 3 other shelter and related assistance initiatives. For this grant period, OCJS received 78 applications totaling more than \$3,405,325.57 in requested funds.

FVPS Categories	Number of Projects Funded by Category	Percent of Funds Disbursed by Category
Shelter Service	30	51%
Related Assistance	8	13%
Shelter & Related Assistance	22	36%

The table below depicts the amount disbursed by category and its proportionate representation of the amount disbursed in Ohio.



Shelters

Number of Women Sheltered	4,204
Number of Children and Young Adults Sheltered (birth to 18 years of age)	3,930
Number of Men Sheltered	25
Number of Elderly Sheltered (55+)	151
Average Length of Stay	21.7 days
Number of Persons Turned Away	971
Number of Persons Referred to Another Shelter due to Lack of Space	991

Types of Individuals Served, including Special Populations

White/Caucasian	5,368
Hispanic/Latino	374
African American	2,761
Asian	32
Pacific Islander	22
Native American	42
Underserved populations (lesbian/gay, Appalachian, etc.)	11,862
Mentally/Emotionally Challenged	1,094
Physically Challenged	472
Unable to Determine	635

Related Services and Assistance

Individual Counseling (number of individuals)	8,366
Group Counseling/Support Group (number of individuals)	9,755
Crisis Intervention/Hotline Calls (number of individuals)	50,546
Information and Referral (number of individuals)	54,683
Batterers Support Services (number of offenders)	1,220
Legal Advocacy Services (court, protection order, etc.)	18,539
Housing Advocacy (number of individuals)	5,774
Other Advocacy Services (social and other services)	21,906
Transportation (number of individuals)	4,597
Child Care Services (number of children)	1,660
Services for Teenagers (number of teens)	1,428
Training and Technical Assistance (number of individuals)	4,534
Prevention Activities (number of participant)	52,964

Volunteers

Number of Volunteers	3,809
Number of Hours Worked	95,731

Performance Report Information

During 2004, OCJS-funded FVPS projects provided far-reaching services for victims and their families ranging from emergency shelter services to educational activities for the community. Notwithstanding the breadth of services FVPS-funded projects provide to Ohioans, it is evident from the number of clients served that this funding stream is critical for helping agencies—whether it is a shelter, visitation center, or coalition—support essential staff and services.

Two key services being supported by FVPS funding include 24-hour crisis lines and domestic violence shelter. Survivors that call the hotline receive services such as crisis intervention, supportive listening, domestic violence information, referrals to other agencies, support group information, and information regarding the court process. Many domestic violence shelters are able to keep their facilities open and staffed 24 hours a day all year-round as a result of FVPS funding, which supports weekend staff, afternoon and evening coordinators, and/or shelter monitors. A 24-hour domestic violence shelter operating 365 days of the year is critical as more than 8,000 Ohioans sought refuge and assistance from family violence programs in 2004, where the average length of stay in a shelter grew by over two days from the past year.

Shelters in Ohio provide victims of domestic violence with more than emergency housing. Many shelters offer clients such services as case management; general advocacy; safety planning; referrals to community services; job placement services; vocational training; transportation to court, medical or other appoints; emergency cell phones; weekly support

groups; transitional housing; legal advocacy; clothing; and food. Agencies also provide classes and/or training opportunities regarding parenting (including budgeting and nutrition tips), anger management skills, and life skills.

Beyond serving adults, many agencies are actively providing services and programming for youths, which are being supported through FVPS funds. The goal of these projects becomes not only raising our youths' awareness about domestic violence, but also providing them mechanisms to better cope with the crime they have witnessed. A few examples to illustrate how the FVPS funding is supporting breaking the cycle of family violence are noted below.

- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force conducts a project for troubled youths who are impacted by domestic violence. The project, *Advocate for Youth*, employs a full-time advocate to work with youth in the county, who struggle with issues of violence, anger, low self-esteem, parental loss/absence, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, dating violence, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, truancy, and other issues. The advocate also works with parents and other systems, i.e., schools, court, and children services, to ensure the well-being of youths through a holistic approach. In addition, the advocate provides individual and group counseling, parental consultations, home visits, school presentations, court testimony, and referrals among other services to cause the cycle of violence to be permanently broken.
- Artemis developed *Therapy Program for Children Impacted by Domestic Violence*. This project provides ongoing child therapy services for children who have witnessed domestic violence. The child therapist provides individual, family, and group therapy sessions to help families as a unit better understand the trauma the children have witnessed. Surveys administered to children and their caretakers, who have participated in at least five therapy sessions, conclude that children taking part in this project benefit enormously, developing their own safety plans, talking about the violence they witness, and, generally, better coping.

Many FVPS-funded projects provide outreach services to the community. Such services range from informing the community of available resources to providing after-care services once an individual/family has left the shelter or visitation center. Workshops and training presentations are given to area schools, universities, parent groups, clubs, civic organizations, and churches. Other agencies underwrite, in part, their efforts to inform the community about domestic violence through media campaigns, which include television and radio public service announcements. Many agencies also conduct outreach through community events such as health fairs, parades, and candlelight vigils to provide a presence in the community as well as being able to hand out brochures, posters, laminated cards, and other pieces of information to promote awareness. To illustrate some of the ways outreach efforts are supported by FVPS funding, the following example is listed below.

- Auglaize County Crisis Center presented curriculum-based programs within the schools and offered the programs to both residential and non-residential families as a result of FVPS funding. The programs offered at the schools in the county include: *Building Healthy Relationships* (for teens), *Conflict Management* (for teens), and *I Get So Mad!*

(for elementary students). These programs are geared to raise youth's awareness about appropriate behaviors in relationships, but also teach non-violent ways to respond to conflict.

The majority of FVPS-funded agencies are hosting training opportunities or sending their staff to training sessions in order to stay current on family violence issues, particularly those affecting underserved populations. All of the projects recognized some type of underserved population existing in their communities, whether it referred to one based on ethnicity, race, limited English proficiency, geographic location, age, or other indicators. Agencies are reaching out and helping underserved populations through community awareness/outreach activities, cultural competence trainings, and other efforts to ensure staff has the appropriate tools and/or knowledge about responding appropriate and effectively to these populations. For example, many agencies that serve underserved populations, due to geographic isolation, offer transportation services or distribute bus/taxi vouchers for clients. Similarly, organizations serving communities where language barriers may impose an enormous obstacle to assisting clients use interpreters to communicate. Agencies have also had key materials such as brochures and forms translated into another language to ensure all clients receive meaningful services regardless of language barriers. Whereas programs are reaching underserved populations in a multitude of ways, below is one example of how one population is being assisted.

- Women Safe is an agency serving, in part, a large Amish population in a northwestern county of the state. In Ohio, the Amish have been identified as an underserved population. To raise awareness about domestic violence and services available to domestic violence, Women Safe developed a cookbook that contains recipes as well as useful information about the domestic violence and the agency's services. The cookbook was distributed through elders in the community who had already reached out to the agency. This innovative vehicle to reach Amish women and young girls who may be victims of domestic violence has been well-received.

Finally, another important measure of successful performance of FVPS-funded agencies is collaboration. Agencies are constantly discussing how to strengthen collaborative ties among partners in the community. Such ties are evident at many levels from the agencies' day-to-day operation to the increased number of referrals made to other community organizations. Collaboration has become the cornerstone of effective services as agencies are increasingly recognizing that they cannot serve victims alone and only through the participation of all organizations in the community will family violence be stopped and prevented.