



Domestic Violence Program FY 2019 Annual Report

Family Law Article, § 4-516(a), Chapter 356 of 2011
(House Bill 739)

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Background

In 1977, the Department of Human Services established Maryland's Domestic Violence Program under §§ 4-513 through 4-515 of the Family Law Article, to provide services to victims of domestic violence.¹ In 1985, the Department of Human Services developed regulations for the program to ensure the availability of services to victims and their families and to administer grant funds for the program.²

In 1996, Senate Bill 456, *Crime Victims and Witnesses - Nonsubstantive Reorganization of Laws*, charged the Department of Human Services with establishing and administering a domestic violence program for victims of domestic violence.³ Under its administration, and through a network of local domestic violence service programs, the Maryland Domestic Violence Program provides temporary shelter environments and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and their families throughout the State.

Effective July 1, 2011, Chapter 356 of 2011 (House Bill 739), *Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention*, transferred the responsibility and funding for sexual assault crisis programs and domestic violence programs from the Department of Human Services to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (Office).⁴ Specifically, the Act charged the Office with establishing a program in each region of the State to provide victims of domestic violence and their children with temporary shelter or help in obtaining shelter, counseling, information, referral, and rehabilitation.

Pursuant to this Act, and as funds become available, the Office may extend the domestic violence program to other areas in the State in which the expansion of such programs may include establishing additional shelters or providing funds and technical assistance to a local organization or agency that shows that it is willing and able to run a domestic violence shelter. Pursuant to § 4-516 of the Family Law Article, and in addition to receiving funds from the annual State budget, the Office shall attempt to secure funding, including in-kind contributions, for the establishment and operation of domestic violence programs from the federal government, local governments, and private sources. Furthermore, and in accordance with § 4-516(a) of the

¹ Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence & Maryland Department of Human Resources. (2011). [*Addressing Domestic Violence: Maryland's Plan 2010 - 2011*](#). The Department of Human Resources changed its name to the Department of Human Services in July 2017.

² Ibid. The available services are outlined in the Code of Maryland (COMAR) Title 07, Subtitle 01, Chapter 15.

³ Maryland General Assembly. (1996). [*Senate Bill 456, Crime Victims and Witnesses - Nonsubstantive Reorganization of Laws*](#).

⁴ Maryland General Assembly. (2011). [*Chapter 356 of 2011 \(House Bill 739\) Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention*](#).

Family Law Article, the Office shall submit a report to the General Assembly each year as it relates to the domestic violence program.

Introduction

As indicated in § 4-514 of the Family Law Article, the General Assembly found that an increasing number of domestic violence victims are forced to leave their homes to ensure their life, safety, and welfare. In addition, victims of domestic violence and their children are often economically dependent on the abuser and have no place to live outside the household. The General Assembly also found a lack of counseling, services, and quality emergency public or private housing to shelter these victims and their children. As a result, the General Assembly required the establishment of domestic violence programs in the State to help victims of domestic violence and their children. This charge originated with the Department of Human Services and was then transferred to the Office.

Domestically Related Crime

In 2012, House Bill 1146/Senate Bill 647, *Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting*, helped to improve the recording and tracking of domestic violence crimes.⁵ Specifically, this Act helped law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors, and judges better protect victims of domestic violence and set more appropriate conditions for abusers.⁶

At that time, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report defined a domestic violence incident as any crime where “*An individual who has received deliberate physical injury or is in fear of imminent deliberate physical injury from a current or former spouse or a current or former cohabitant. This includes a homosexual relationship.*”⁷ In addition, a domestic violence incident in the Maryland Uniform Crime Report program was considered to be any crime against:

- A married person living with their spouse.
- A married person estranged from their spouse.
- A male and female in an intimate relationship who are not married to each other and who are cohabitating or had cohabitated.
- Individuals of the same sex in an intimate relationship who are cohabitating or had cohabitated.

⁵ Maryland Department of Legislative Services. (2012). [House Bill 1146 \(2012\), Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting / Senate Bill 647 \(2012\), Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting](#).

⁶ Maryland Department of State Police. (2017). [Crime in Maryland: 2017 Uniform Crime Report](#).

⁷ Maryland Department of State Police. (2013). [Crime in Maryland: 2012 Uniform Crime Report](#).

Table 1. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Spouse Relationship provides a breakdown of domestic violence crimes in Maryland by offender relationship for the period 2011 through 2017.

Table 1. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Spouse Relationship⁸							
Spouse	2011	2012	*2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Husband	1,974	1,889	1,866	1,754	1,766	1,688	1,782
Wife	4,843	4,883	4,761	4,148	4,223	3,985	4,136
Cohabitant							
Heterosexual Male	2,727	2,537	2,460	2,257	2,310	2,019	2,147
Heterosexual Female	8,261	7,868	7,342	6,514	6,607	5,606	5,319
Homosexual	404	438	388	382	395	377	445
Subtotal	18,209	17,615	*16,817	15,055	15,301	13,675	13,829

*In 2013, the crime of domestic violence expanded to include more relationships to reflect changes in Maryland law.

In 2013, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report program expanded the definition of a domestically related crime to mirror House Bill 1146/Senate Bill 647 (2012) to state “*Any crime committed by a suspect (respondent) against a victim who is a person eligible for relief, as defined in § 4-501 of the Family Law Article or who had a sexual relationship with the suspect within 12 months before the commission of the crime. This also includes homosexual relationships.*”⁹ In addition, a “person eligible for relief,” as defined in § 4-501 of the Family Law Article includes:

- The current or former spouse of the respondent.
- A cohabitant of the respondent.
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within one year before the filing of the petition.
- A vulnerable adult.
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent.

As illustrated in **Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship**, the expanded definition of “persons eligible for relief” under Maryland’s domestic violence statutes resulted in a significant increase in the total number of domestic violence crimes throughout the State.

⁸ Maryland Department of State Police. (2017). [Crime in Maryland: 2017 Uniform Crime Report](#). This report is the most current Uniform Crime Report in Maryland.

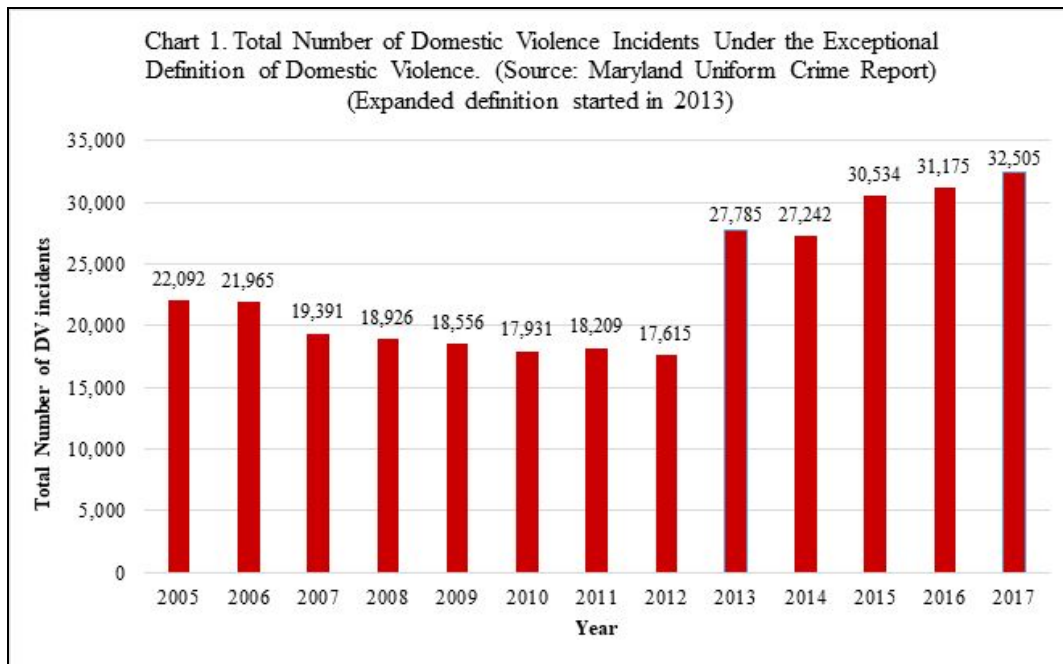
⁹ Maryland Department of State Police. (2014). [Crime in Maryland: 2013 Uniform Crime Report](#).

Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship¹⁰							
Relationships reported as of 2013	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sibling (brother or sister)	N/A	N/A	1,636	1,691	1,791	1,918	1,970
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, In-law	N/A	N/A	562	660	866	1,070	970
Grandchild or Grandparent	N/A	N/A	232	280	328	349	397
Child (son or daughter) or Stepchild	N/A	N/A	2,149	2,274	2,601	2,521	2,922
Parent or Stepparent	N/A	N/A	2,533	2,729	3,143	3,096	3,298
Vulnerable Adult	N/A	N/A	47	73	56	63	57
Individual with a child in common	N/A	N/A	1,378	1,638	1,922	2,181	2,199
Heterosexual Male, Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	630	649	978	1,472	1,569
Heterosexual Female, Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	1,651	2,014	3,252	4,437	4,877
Homosexual Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	150	179	296	393	417
Grand Total	18,209	17,615	*27,785	27,242	30,534	31,175	32,505

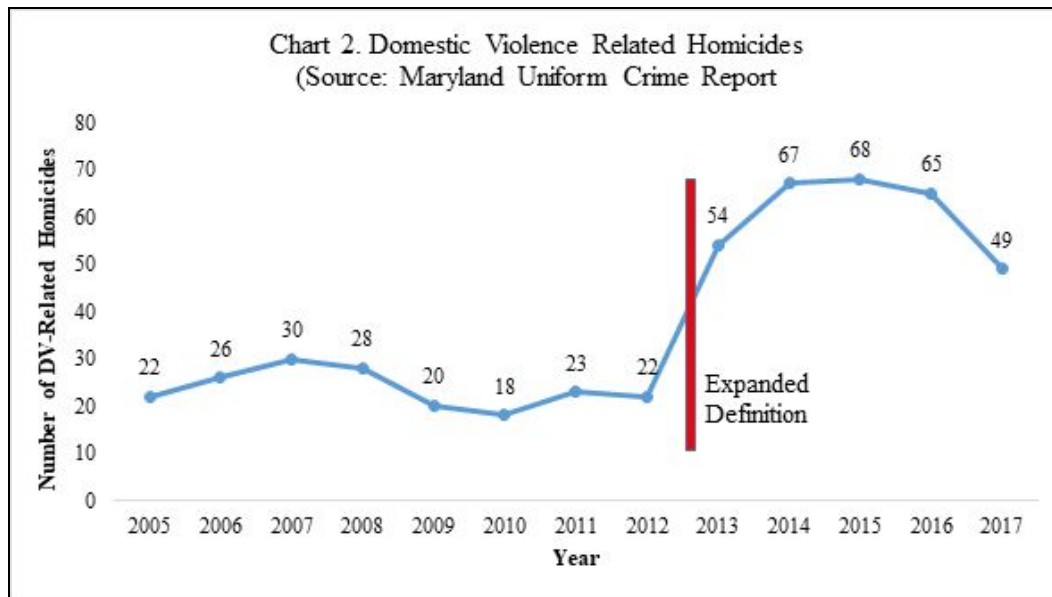
*In 2013, the crime of domestic violence expanded to include more relationships to reflect changes in Maryland law. This change explains the increase in the total number of domestically related crimes reported.

¹⁰ Maryland Department of State Police. (2017). [Crime in Maryland: 2017 Uniform Crime Report](#). This report is the most current Uniform Crime Report in Maryland.

Under the expanded definition, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report identified an additional 18,676 domestically related crimes in 2017 (*as illustrated below*).¹¹



In 2017, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report identified 32 female and 17 male homicide victims, all determined to be domestically related based on the expanded definition (*as illustrated below*).



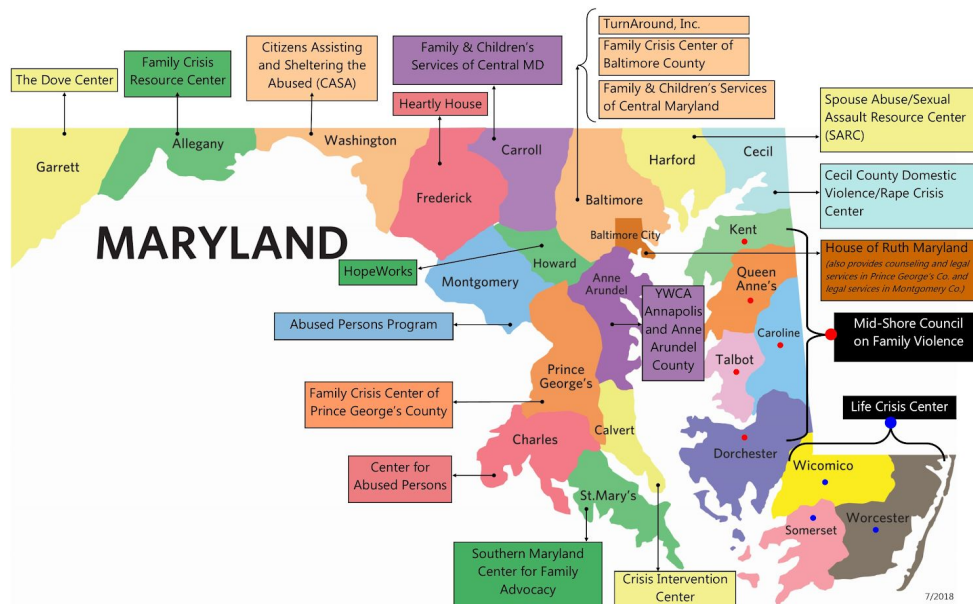
¹¹ Ibid.

Maryland Domestic Violence Program

Pursuant to Chapter 356 of 2011, the Office administers the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV), a statewide program that is funded through the State’s annual budget and through federal Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS) funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to make temporary shelter environments and supportive services available through a network of local domestic violence services programs. Through the program, funds are available to comprehensive domestic violence programs to include private and nonprofit organizations, as well as local governmental agencies.

The primary purpose of the DOMV program is to prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence; to meet the needs of all victims and their dependants; and to meet the needs of those in underserved communities. Funds are used to assist subrecipients provide services to victims through a 24-hour hotline, safe accommodations, therapeutic counseling, legal counseling, and court accompaniment. Funds are also used to support community awareness activities and abuse intervention programs. Through its program, DOMV provides comprehensive services to meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families. These services are provided through a network of community-based domestic violence programs and are available in every jurisdiction statewide (*as illustrated below*).

Programs Providing Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services in Each County



At the local level, these programs ensure that victims have access to needed services onsite and also provide victims with linkages to other community-based services as needed. The provision of services at the local level also fosters a coordinated community approach to serve domestic violence victims, which includes partnerships with law enforcement, courts, hospitals, local departments of social services, and other related support agencies.

In addition, all DOMV funded domestic violence programs must provide specialized services that reflect awareness of, and sensitivity to, the needs of underserved populations and implement their programs in accordance with State and federal regulations or guidelines. Unserved and underserved victim populations targeted for outreach and services include: individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues; older adults; individuals with disabilities; those with limited English proficiency; immigrants; people in same-sex relationships; teens; military families; male victims; and individuals and families living in rural areas of the State where access to services may be limited. Each program develops and implements a plan for outreach to, and engagement of, unserved or underserved populations.

While the Office requires all domestic violence programs to identify and provide services to unserved and underserved populations, the Office does not require the programs to adopt a standardized approach for outreach and intervention. Programs develop and implement their own outreach efforts as defined by their understanding of the specific needs of their respective jurisdictions.

Grant Awards

In FY 2019, the annual State budget provided \$2,089,779 in general funds and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided \$1,822,712 in federal FVPS funds for the DOMV program. Through this program, the Office awarded \$3,912,491 to subrecipients with comprehensive domestic violence programs (*as illustrated below and on the following pages*).

Award Number	Award Amount	Implementing Organization	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
DOMV-2019-0001	\$365,461	Family & Children's Services of Central Maryland	Baltimore City	The program provided services to domestic violence victims and their children, to include: a 24-hour hotline; emergency shelter; crisis intervention; case management and continued counseling; information and referrals; legal services; specialized services for children; legal and medical accompaniment; abuser intervention; and supportive services. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.

DOMV-2019-0002	\$176,829	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	Allegany County	The program provided a 24-hour hotline; safe shelter; crisis intervention and supportive services; information and referrals to other community resources; individual and group counseling; legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment; advocacy with other systems; abuse intervention; and community and outreach training. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, travel, and equipment.
DOMV-2019-0003	\$128,710	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	Garrett County	The program provided services to include: shelter; counseling; hotline; information and referral; advocacy and accompaniment; outreach services; education and prevention activities; supportive services; specialized services for children; and abuse intervention services. Program funds provided salary support and operating expenses.
DOMV-2019-0004	\$173,885	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	Harford County	The program provided a 24-hour helpline; crisis intervention; counseling, emergency shelter; abuse intervention; and community education. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
DOMV-2019-0005	\$99,150	Center for Abused Persons	Charles County	The program provided crisis intervention; individual, family, and group counseling; 24-hour outreach and accompaniment; legal services; emergency shelter; other supportive services for victims of domestic violence; and abuse intervention program services for abusers. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, and operating expenses.
DOMV-2019-0006	\$113,000	TurnAround, Inc.	Baltimore County / Baltimore City	The program provided immediate and ongoing support to victims of domestic violence and their families including: advocacy; case management; emergency shelter; and trauma therapy. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and contractual services.
DOMV-2019-0007	\$207,127	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	Baltimore County	The program provided comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence including: a 24-hour emergency safe shelter; victim advocacy services; and ongoing mental health support services. Program funds provided personnel support and operating expenses.

DOMV-2019-0008	\$126,919	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	Washington County	The program provided services to victims of domestic violence and their families, to include: a 24-hour hotline; emergency shelter; information and referral services; counseling; legal services; specialized services for children; accompaniment; and supportive services. Program funds provided personnel support.
DOMV-2019-0009	\$515,447	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program provided comprehensive intimate partner violence (IPV) services to victims and their children experiencing intimate partner violence; abuse intervention to encourage abusive partners to stop their violent actions; and IPV education to fellow service providers and community members to broaden support for victims and awareness of IPV. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and travel expenses.
DOMV-2019-0010	\$183,251	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County	The program provided: emergency shelter; counseling; 24-hour hotline; safety planning; and prevention services to underserved populations. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0001	\$228,645	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Kent, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Queen Anne's Counties	The program provided: hotline services; crisis counseling; shelter; medical accompaniment; legal advocacy; court accompaniment; outreach; and training to domestic violence victims in Kent, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Queen Anne's counties. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, contractual services, and travel.
FVPS-2018-0002	\$137,100	Cecil County Department of Social Services	Cecil County	The program provided services to domestic violence victims, to include: temporary safe shelter accommodations; individual, group and crisis counseling; case management; 24-hour hotline services; legal services; court and hospital accompaniment; transitional housing; children's services; information and referral; education; advocacy; and outreach. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, travel, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0003	\$182,000	Montgomery County, Maryland	Montgomery County	The program provided victims with outreach and information on legal protection and human services, as well as civil/criminal justice and law enforcement resources available to deal with the current incident of violence or ongoing abuse. Program funds provided personnel support.

FVPS-2018-0004	\$145,972	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset Counties	The program provided: 24-hour hotline services; emergency shelter; crisis counseling; abuse intervention program; information and referrals; legal services; specialized services for children; legal and medical accompaniment; supportive services; and community education in Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0005	\$179,383	HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.	Howard County	The program promoted holistic evidence-based healing strategies to reflect the individual needs of domestic violence victims by providing a variety of therapeutic counseling services, to include: individual and group counseling; emergency shelter; legal assistance; community education and outreach; 24-hour crisis hotline; and medical accompaniment. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0006	\$99,623	Family & Children's Services of Central Maryland	Baltimore City	The program provided services to domestic violence victims and their children, to include: a 24-hour hotline; emergency shelter; crisis intervention; case management and continuing counseling; information and referrals; legal services; specialized services for children; legal and medical accompaniment; abuser intervention; and supportive services. Program funds provided personnel support and contractual services.
FVPS-2018-0007	\$139,380	Calvert County Health Department	Calvert County	The program provided: 24-hour helpline services; individual and group counseling; victim advocacy services; outreach and education services to the community; and shelter at the Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0008	\$250,813	Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Prince George's County	Prince George's County	The program provided safe housing and supportive services to women and their children fleeing domestic violence. Services included: emergency shelter; case management; counseling; and a 24-hour crisis hotline. Program funds provided personnel support and contractual services.
FVPS-2018-0009	\$99,277	Walden Sierra, Inc.	St. Mary's County	The program provided services to adult and child victims, to include: a 24-hour hotline; crisis services; counseling; referrals; coordinated services; and access to ongoing therapy while also supporting engagement efforts designed to create and sustain

				community partnerships toward domestic violence prevention. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0010	\$220,350	Heartly House, Inc.	Frederick County	The program provided: a 24-hour hotline; crisis intervention and advocacy; emergency shelter; short-term individual and group counseling; safety planning; and referral to other Heartly House and/or community services; and community education and outreach. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0011	\$4,602	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	Garrett County	The program offered on-campus counseling and prevention services at Garrett College. It also provided educational information to prevent dating violence, domestic violence and sexual violence; and to encourage a shift away from attitudes that condone, ignore, or accept these types of violence. Program funds provided personnel support and travel expenses.
FVPS-2018-0012	\$6,847	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	Harford County	The program focused on primary prevention in middle schools, high schools, after school programs such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA, as well as with students at Harford Community College. The program focused on promoting social norms that protect against, and teach skills, to prevent sexual violence (various topics included consent, sexual violence, and teen dating violence). Program funds provided personnel support and travel.
FVPS-2018-0013	\$5,355	Center for Abused Persons	Charles County	The program provided: crisis intervention; individual, family and group counseling; 24-hour outreach and accompaniment; legal services; emergency shelter; and other supportive services for victims of domestic violence. The program also provided teen dating violence prevention training to youth and youth-service providers. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0014	\$55,160	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County	The program expanded training resources for victim advocates and victim assistants, and increased victim service providers' collection of metrics and performance measures through case management systems, as well as other technology improvements. Program funds provided contractual services and other expenses.

FVPS-2018-0015	\$4,343	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	Allegany County	The program educated adolescents and pre-adolescents about preventing teen dating violence, utilized primary prevention strategies, incorporated evidence-based and data informed prevention programming, supported staff attendance of trainings focused on violence prevention, and trained other youth-service providers. Program funds provided personnel support and travel.
FVPS-2018-0016	\$38,373	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	Baltimore County	The program increased the agency's collection of evidence-based metrics and performance measures through case management systems, as well as other technology improvements. The implementation and utilization of new software improved data collection; tracked outcomes and measure performance; created and shared performance reports securely for ongoing monitoring and collaboration; and allowed for modifications in data collection tools, based on program development. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, and other expenses.
FVPS-2018-0017	\$25,489	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Talbot County	The program provided support services to rural, underserved victims of domestic violence and raised awareness about resources available for victims. Program funds provided contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
Total	\$3,912,491			

Conclusion

The Office will continue to support the DOMV and FVPS programs to help comprehensive victim service providers meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families, including those victims who are members of underserved populations, in Maryland's communities to make the State safer.