



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Domestic Violence Program FY 2023 Annual
Report**

*Family Law Article, § 4-516(a); House Bill 739/Chapter 356, 2011;
MSAR #8611*

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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December 20, 2023



WES MOORE
Governor

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

December 20, 2023

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Report required by Family Law Article § 4-516(a) (MSAR #8611) - Domestic Violence Program FY 2023 Annual Report

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

As required by § 4-516(a) of the Family Law Article, please find enclosed a copy of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services' *Domestic Violence Program FY 2023 Annual Report*. This report provides an overview of the grant program and includes information regarding the distribution of funds to programs throughout the State to provide comprehensive services that meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy J. Lennig".

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

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Introduction

In accordance with § 4-516(a) of the Family Law Article, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office) must submit a report to the General Assembly each year as it relates to the domestic violence program. Pursuant to its charge, this *Domestic Violence Program FY 2023 Annual Report* provides an overview of the grant program and includes information regarding the distribution of funds to programs to provide comprehensive services that meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families.

Background

Section 4-515 of the Family Law Article requires the Office to establish 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. As funds become available, the Office may also 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. In addition to receiving funds from the annual State budget, § 4-516 requires the Office to attempt to secure funding, including in-kind contributions, for establishing and operating domestic violence programs from the federal government, local governments, and private sources. It also requires the Office to submit a report to the General Assembly each year.

Maryland Domestic Violence Program

The Office administers the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV), a statewide program that is funded through the State’s annual budget, and the federal Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS), funded by 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.¹ Through the DOMV/FVPS program, funds are available to comprehensive domestic violence programs to include private and nonprofit organizations, as well as local governmental agencies.²

The primary purpose of this program is to prevent incidents of family violence, domestic

¹ Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. *Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV)*. <https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/domv/>

² Comprehensive domestic violence programs are programs that meet the requirements of §4–515 of the Family Law Article, <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gfl§ion=4-515&enactments=false>.

violence, and dating violence and to meet the needs of all victims and their dependents, including those in underserved communities. Funds are used to assist subrecipients in providing 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. These services are provided through a network of community-based domestic violence programs and are available in every jurisdiction statewide.

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 serving domestic violence victims, including partnerships with law enforcement, courts, hospitals, local departments of social services, and other related support agencies.

In addition, all DOMV/FVPS-funded domestic violence programs must provide specialized services that reflect an 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; 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 2023, and through the DOMV/FVPS program, the Office awarded \$3,402,795.35 to subrecipients with comprehensive domestic violence programs (*as illustrated below and on the following pages*). The awarded funds consisted of \$2,058,824 in State general funds and \$1,343,971.35 in federal FVPS funds.

DOMV State FY 2023 Grant Awards (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)			
Award Number	Award Amount	Implementing Agency	Jurisdiction
DOMV-2023-0001	\$181,306	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	Harford
DOMV-2023-0002	\$117,947	TurnAround, Inc. (Baltimore County)	Baltimore County
DOMV-2023-0003	\$103,543	Center for Abused Persons	Charles
DOMV-2023-0004	\$191,054	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel
DOMV-2023-0005	\$215,896	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	Baltimore County
DOMV-2023-0006	\$184,360	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	Allegany
DOMV-2023-0007	\$261,358	Community Crisis Services, Inc. (formerly Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Prince George's County)	Prince George's
DOMV-2023-0008	\$134,290	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	Garrett
DOMV-2023-0009	\$132,355	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	Washington
DOMV-2023-0011	\$536,715	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City
Total	\$2,058,824		

FVPS Federal FY 2022 Grant Awards (October 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)			
Award Number	Award Amount	Implementing Agency	Jurisdiction
FVPS-2022-0001	\$106,764.67	Cecil County Department of Community Services	Cecil
FVPS-2022-0002	\$170,930.95	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Talbot
FVPS-2022-0003	\$114,200	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	Wicomico
FVPS-2022-0004	\$151,100	Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy	St. Mary's
FVPS-2022-0005	\$110,024.96	HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.	Howard
FVPS-2022-0006	\$51,481.20	Calvert County Health Department	Calvert
FVPS-2022-0007	\$171,925.57	Heartly House, Inc.	Frederick
FVPS-2022-0008	\$325,230	Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City
FVPS-2022-0009	\$142,314	Montgomery County Abused Persons Program	Montgomery
Total	\$1,343,971.35		

Performance Measures

Through the DOMV/FVPS program, awarded funds were used to provide comprehensive services to meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families. In addition, and based on the quarterly submission of performance measure data, awarded subrecipients reported the following outcomes:³

- 15,115 victims served
- 14,717 victims provided with support services
- 9,068 victims provided with advocacy services
- 3,270 victims more aware of resources
- 3,243 victims felt safer
- 3,130 victims felt more informed of their rights
- 2,894 victims felt more self-sufficient
- 1,404 victims referred to VPO
- 483 victims registered and/or assisted with registering for VPO

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.

³ It is important to note that the DOMV funding source is based on the State fiscal 2023 reporting period (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023); whereas, the FVPS funding source is based on the federal fiscal 2022 reporting period (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023). For this reason, the performance measures capture the reported outcomes that are consistent with the reporting period for each funding source.