

CALL TO ACTION

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS LINE ITEM



OHIO ALLIANCE TO
END SEXUAL
VIOLENCE

Call to Action - Rape Crisis Centers Line Item

This toolkit highlights the approaching Ohio budget process for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, and steps Ohio rape crisis programs can take to support an increase for the Rape Crisis Centers line item. Inside, you will find the tools necessary to discuss the line item with police departments, hospital staff, council members, county and municipal prosecuting attorneys, and others that engage with line item-funded programs. The ultimate goal of this project is to expand the groups contacting lawmakers to support this line item from the coalition of community-based rape crisis programs to as many community partners as possible.

The toolkit will proceed in the following order:

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I. Rape Crisis Centers Line Item:

History and Impact

Before 2014, Ohio survivors could access rape crisis services ¹ in less than half of Ohio's 88 counties. Programs serving these counties operated heavily on federal grants. The vast majority of federal grants restrict funding to the creation or maintenance of new positions, and heavily regulate the tasks those grants will support. This left Ohio rape crisis programs without a dependable funding stream to cover costs associated with keeping their doors open, including electricity bills, internet and telephone services, and equipment costs for printers, filing cabinets, and desks. Further, only one federal grant program allows funding for prevention services.

To expand service accessibility across counties, and to increase the financial stability of Ohio's existing rape crisis programs, OAESV worked diligently with Ohio legislators and the Attorney General's office to create the Ohio Rape Crisis Centers budget line item ("line item"). Under the line item, programs that meet the Core Standards are eligible for unrestricted funds. The line item's positive impact was swift and powerful.

¹ Core Standards for Rape Crisis Programs in Ohio (January 2013), distributed by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, available at http://www.ncdsv.org/images/OAESV_CoreStandardsForRapeCrisisProgramsInOhio_Updated-3-19-13.pdf.

² Many rape crisis programs receive one or multiple of the following federal grants for fiscal support: VAWA STOP (State Formula Grants), VAWA SASP (Sexual Assault Services Program), VAWA RPE (Rape Prevention Education), the Victims of Crime Act Grant. See, e.g., Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant Program (VAWA), <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>; United States Department of Justice, OVW Grants and Programs, <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>; Ohio Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention, <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/health/sadv/sviolenceprev/svp.aspx>.

For instance, many programs were able to extend their services to cover additional counties, increase employment, and create prevention programming. One figure is particularly illustrative of the line item's impact:

Fiscal Year	Counties Receiving Rape Crisis Services
2014 (pre-impact of disbursement)	42
2015	51
2016	74
2017	77
2018	79

As counties providing services increased, so too did reports of sexual violence to law enforcement. Specifically, 4,391 reports were made to Ohio law enforcement in 2013 (the last year before the rape crisis fund was dispersed), 5,228 reports were made to Ohio law enforcement in 2014, 5,441 reports were made in 2015, and 5,589 reports were made in 2016. Data for 2017 is predicted to be published in late November 2018.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rape Prevention Education: Transforming Communities to Prevent Sexual Violence, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/rpe/index.html>.

4 See, e.g., Legislative Service Commission, Budget in Detail at 15 (GRF 055501 Rape Crisis Centers), available at <https://obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-18-19/enacted/budgetindetail-hb49-en.pdf>.
5 Ohio Statistical Analysis Center, OCJS Special Report: Crime in the United States 2014, Ohio Data (Oct. 22, 2015), available at http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_crime_in_us2014.pdf; Ohio Statistical Analysis Center, OCJS Special Report: Crime in the United States 2015, Ohio Data (Sept. 26, 2016), available at http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_crime_in_us2015.pdf; Ohio Statistical Analysis Center, OCJS Special Report: Crime in the United States 2016, Ohio Data (Sept. 25, 2017), available at http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_CrimeintheUS2016.pdf.

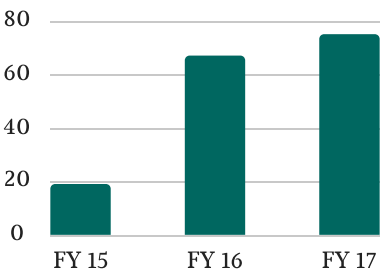
The line item has demonstrated a tangible and impressive impact since it was first introduced in 2014. However, the increased demand for survivor services and prevention work have not been met with an increase in line item funds.

SURVIVORS SERVED

FY 15: 14,895 FY 16: 16,418 FY 17: 18,860

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$999,987	\$1,000,000	\$1,499,925	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

In addition, the line item has allowed Ohio rape crisis programs to add and maintain positions, which supports local economies and increases survivor services.



Finally, the rape crisis line item provides the only significant source of funds for sexual violence prevention work outside of the VAWA Rape Prevention Education grant. As line item awards are non-restrictive, rape crisis centers are free to use these funds for prevention services. Over the past three years, Ohio communities have placed an increasing demand on rape crisis programs for prevention training in K-12 schools, campuses and other community agencies.

Though line item funding has remained level since FY 2016, the number of community members trained in prevention by rape crisis programs in Ohio has more than tripled since 2015.

Persons Prevention Trained

FY 15: 22,686 FY 16: 60,955 FY 17: 76,895

II. The Budget Timeline

The Ohio budget process formally begins when the Governor makes formal budget recommendations at the end of January. In early February, the “As Introduced” budget is introduced as a House bill. The House Finance Committee divides the budget for review by various subcommittees, which hold hearings during which agencies and other interest groups (upon invitation) provide testimony. Hearings take place through April. The Finance Committee then reconvenes, considers testimony and recommendations, and creates a substitute bill. It then holds hearings on said bill to make any further adjustments. All recommended changes are combined in an omnibus amendment, which is voted on by the committee and then passed to the House floor. The full House can make additional amendments, before the budget is passed on to the Senate.

6 These positions are funded in whole or in part by the line item disbursements.
7 Additional grants provide support for intimate partner violence and human trafficking prevention.
8 Up-to-date data from Ohio's rape crisis programs indicate that this number will continue to rise.

Upon receipt in early May, the Senate Finance Committee splits into subcommittees for hearings, where agencies and invited interest groups will again provide testimony. The Senate Finance Committee makes its own sub-bill, which will be subject to hearings before the full Senate Finance Committee. The Senate Finance Committee makes its own omnibus amendment, before voting for passage to the Senate Floor. The full Senate may make additional amendments before passage.

Once the Senate passes their version of the budget, a Conference Committee is formed of members of the House and Senate, who essentially work to combine the budgets and address discrepancies. This committee produces a final report of the budget for each body's final agreement. The Governor may then engage in a line item veto process.

III. The Ask

OAESV worked with the Attorney General's office to advocate for an increased ask of \$2 million per fiscal year. However, as the events of Fall 2018 unfolded, it became more clear than ever that prevention and survivor services must be a priority in Ohio. Numerous actions taken by the federal government have left survivors feeling abandoned and betrayed. It is time, therefore, for Ohio's government to make a statement and tell survivors that they are a priority.

⁹ An omnibus amendment is the submission of several smaller amendments at one time.

For that reason, OAESV conferred with the AG's office and drafted a letter adjusting our request to \$3 million. The Attorney General's office will submit this letter with their budget request. That office has encouraged us to engage in strong efforts to advocate for the \$3 million per fiscal year, and we have already begun engaging with lawmakers.

The following events have led to our increased request, and are the foundation of our pitch:

a. Violence Against Women Act Instability

Many Ohio line item recipients rely on Violence Against Women Act grant funds to support agency positions and programs. The Violence Against Women Act, first signed into law in 1994, has historically been reauthorized in five year increments with enthusiastic bipartisan co-sponsorship and support. This year, however, the United States Senate ¹⁰failed for the first time to introduce VAWA reauthorization legislation. Thereafter, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee introduced a reauthorization bill for rapid passage before the law expired on September 30, 2018. However, this bill did not have bipartisan support and ultimately did not pass. Instead, a resolution was passed to extend the expiration date to December 7, 2018.

¹⁰ Since its inception, each VAWA reauthorization bill was introduced and passed in the Senate before companion legislation went through the House of Representatives.

The federal government's actions leave VAWA funds supporting Ohio rape crisis programs in limbo and sent survivors a message that the federal government does not support them. OAESV believes that the best way to ensure stability in services to Ohio's survivors is to expand the financial resources available to Ohio programs through the rape crisis line item. Importantly, Ohio's prevention services have tripled over the past three years. If the Rape Prevention Education fund loses stability, the line item is among few sources that can keep prevention work stable in Ohio.

b. #MeToo

In 2018, the #Metoo¹¹ movement opened up a national conversation about sexual violence, leading survivors of all ages to report sexual violence at increased rates, rates that have only continued to skyrocket. The dialogue inspired by #Metoo has significantly increased the number of service requests at rape crisis programs across the state. In addition, it has led to increased requests to local rape crisis programs and the statewide coalition from businesses seeking training on sexual harassment and preventing sexual violence in the workplace. As prevention work is primarily funded by the VAWA Rape Prevention and Education grant and the Ohio Rape Crisis Program Fund's unrestricted financial support, an increase to \$3 million per fiscal year will allow Ohio programs to provide requested trainings and meet the needs of the increasing number of survivors inspired to seek services.

c. Supreme Court

The confirmation process of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh created an urgent and increased demand at rape crisis programs all over the country.¹⁴ Many survivors report a strong lack of faith in the federal government. This must be remedied by state lawmakers, who must continue to support survivors and pass laws that create a safer Ohio. As sex crimes are almost universally matters of state law, it is critically important that this upcoming 133rd General Assembly prioritize survivors by doubling the line item for the next two fiscal years.



¹¹ See, e.g., TIME, Person of the Year 2017, <http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-2017-silence-breakers/>.

¹² See, Fox 8 Cleveland, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center credits #MeToo movement for increase in assault reports (June 12, 2018) <https://fox8.com/2018/06/12/cleveland-rape-crisis-center-credits-metoo-movement-for-increase-in-assault-reports/>; Business Insider, #MeToo movement causes flood of calls to sexual assault hotlines (January 18, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/metoo-movement-causes-flood-of-calls-to-sexual-assault-hotlines-2018-1>

¹³ CNN, The National Sexual Assault Hotline got a 201% increase in calls during the Kavanaugh hearing (September 24, 2018), <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/24/health/national-sexual-assault-hotline-spike/index.html>.

¹⁴ See, e.g., <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/dallas/2018/10/06/after-kavanaugh-hearing-calls-rape-crisis/>

IV. Potential Impact of Additional Community Partner Support

When lawmakers review budget proposals, they take interest group recommendations seriously. However, it is also very helpful for lawmakers to hear support from members of other professions that work with survivors and/or members of local government. For instance, a lawmaker will likely expect to speak with OAESV and the local program in their district to discuss the line item that impacts their work. Though these meetings can be very persuasive, additional communications with law enforcement officials, hospital employees, or others will show community-wide support that will bolster the lawmaker's willingness to vote for a line item increase.

V. RCC Action Steps

a. Identify Community Partners

The best way to engage support is to first meet with individuals with whom you have a positive working relationship. Think about members of other professions who call upon your team for help with a case or other type of engagement with survivors or prevention matters. Meet with a small group in your team to identify possible partners, and think about local officials with whom you may be comfortable discussing the line item.

Example List:

Law Enforcement

***Municipal**

- Know Well:
- Comfortable Approaching:

***County**

- Know Well:
- Comfortable Approaching:

School District

***Middle School**

- Prevention Partnerships:
- Other Affiliations:

***High School**

- Prevention Partnerships:
- Other Affiliations:

Medical Professionals

***SANE Nurses:**

- Are they affiliated with professional association?

***Hospital Association Leadership**

Local Government

***City Counsel:**

***Mayor:**

***City Manager:**

As time is at a premium, we recommend focusing on community partners with whom you feel comfortable communicating this issue. It is extremely helpful to speak with community members who have seen the impact of prevention or advocacy, and can understand that this funding stream supports that work.

b. Select Action Steps, Prepare for Conversations

Engaging in this process should be done in a manner that reflects your schedule and time constraints. Conversations can easily take place with community members you know over coffee or a meal, while other actions may require more formality. Once you have determined who you will request meetings with, we advise reviewing this packet and talking points, focusing on ways in which the funding supports important services and progress in the individual's professional area, for example:

Meeting	Example Script for Meeting Request (will vary by relationship to party)	Example Meeting Focus Areas	Tools to Bring
City Government Official	"My name is ____, I am calling to request a meeting with ____ (Mayor/City Manager/Council Member) or a member of their staff to discuss ____ (Program Name) and the ____ (number) of survivors we serve in (municipality name) each year. As you know, the state budget process will commence in January, and the coalition of rape crisis programs is seeking an increase in its state line item to accommodate services, and we would like to talk about ways in which our city government can express support to our state representative and senator. Our meeting will focus directly on the benefits this line item has created in ____ (municipality)."	Community Safety Any increase in police reports Prevention numbers – how many community members/students have been trained (focus on the reduction in violence that accompanies prevention work, and that the only federal funding stream for prevention work is in danger (VAWA talking points above). Employment Economic costs of sexual violence and how rape crisis services and prevention can alleviate this (see talking points page)	State data on police reporting rates in your community and statewide Increase in local survivors served Literature on your program's prevention programming

Meeting	Example Script for Meeting Request (will vary by relationship to party)	Example Meeting Focus Areas	Tools to Bring
Law Enforcement	"My name is ____, I am calling to request a meeting with ____ (Specific Officer) to talk about ____ (Program Name) and the ____ (number) of survivors we serve in (municipality name) each year. As you know, the state budget process will commence in January, and the coalition of rape crisis programs is seeking an increase in its state line item to accommodate services, and we would like to talk about ways that the law enforcement officers we work with can express support to our state representative and senator. Our meeting will focus directly on the ways the line item has helped us collaborate with law enforcement to help survivors."	Community Safety Reporting Rates Specific Experiences Shared with Law Enforcement Shared Goals with Law Enforcement Any SART successes involving law enforcement Increased difficulty for law enforcement investigations and prosecutions created by Kavanaugh hearings	State data on police reporting rates in your community and statewide Increase in local survivors served Increase in prosecution rates, if applicable

Meeting	Example Script for Meeting Request (will vary by relationship to party)	Example Meeting Focus Areas	Tools to Bring
Schools, Districts, PTA	"My name is ____, I am calling to request a meeting with ____ (Specific School or District Official/PTA Member) to talk about ____ (Program Name) and the ____ (number) prevention programming we provide to (School or District) each year. As you may know, the state budget process will commence in January, and the coalition of rape crisis programs is seeking an increase in its state line item to allow us to continue providing prevention services to school districts like yours, and we would like to talk about ways that the schools we work with can express support to our state representative and senator. Our meeting will focus directly on the ways the line item has helped us collaborate with ____ (School/District Name) to reduce sexual violence and create a safer space for students."	Student Safety Shared Goals with School – i.e. reducing sexual violence Any Prevention Success within District Changes to Title IX Lack of Stability in VAWA RPE Funding (the only existing grant source for prevention work)	Prevention Literature

c. Provide Support Options

The most important strategy a program can employ is making support easy for participants. For that reason, we are providing the following methods of support:

Letter Option	<p>Should the party you are meeting with agree to provide support, provide the letter attached to the email containing this document as Appendix A. It is most useful if you fill in as much information as possible for them (their name and address), and the name/email address of the lawmaker to be receiving the information. We advise assessing their support and emailing the template letter only after they have committed to supporting in that manner.</p>
Call Option	<p>If the party you are meeting with is more comfortable calling your law makers to express support, please email them the script in Appendix B after your meeting, along with the name and telephone numbers of the lawmakers they will be calling.</p>

VI. Post-Election Budget Timeline

a. Generally

Newly elected lawmakers will be sworn into the 133rd General Assembly in early January 2019. Those who won re-election or gained a seat in another house (due to term limits, senators and representatives often switch houses) will come back to the statehouse for “Lame Duck” session to work on legislation that may not make it through the next session, given any party changes to majorities or the Governor’s office. In the email containing this document, OAESV will provide the names and contact information of the lawmakers needing support from your specific community.

b. Tours for Newly Elected Members

Should your district be represented by a member new to the legislature, we recommend inviting that person for a tour of your program to discuss your work and the importance of the line item. OAESV will send details about this with specific member information in the email containing this document.

VII. Optional Tracking

OAESV has created an optional tracking system for those interested in sharing their experiences. This is a simple, text box format. OAESV will send you a copy of the survey link by email in late January.

VIII. The Importance of Storytelling

While OAESV can provide arguments for the benefit to the state as a whole, your program has the power to provide something OAESV cannot – success in your specific community only possible because of the line item. It is critical to go into meetings with a power story, please use the following tips to help gather one-to-three narratives:

- Have a story about the main aspects of your work – if you do prevention, include a narrative about prevention and survivor services.
- Maintain confidentiality.

- Choose a story with a “happy” ending – i.e. one in which survivor advocacy allowed for a conviction or civil remedy that kept the community safer or put the survivor on the path to successful recovery.
- Talk about the impact your prevention work has had on a specific school or community agency.
- Connect the funding stream to the important work you do.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact OAESV for story telling development assistance.



Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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Appendix A - Template Letter

Sent by Electronic Mail Only

[Sender Name]

[Sender Address]

[Sender Email Address]

Date

[Recipient Name]

[Recipient Address]

[Recipient Email Address]

Dear [Lawmaker]:

I am writing this letter in my capacity as [Title] with [employer] to express my/our support for an increase in the Rape Crisis Centers Line Item in the Ohio Budget. This line item provides critical support for rape crisis programs that serve survivors across Ohio, and I have seen personally the positive impact this line item has had on my/our community. Specifically, the line item funds _____ (name of local rape crisis program), and its prevention and survivor advocacy services.

As you know, the Rape Crisis Centers Line Item has maintained level at \$1,500,000 per fiscal year since FY 2015. At the same time, the number of survivors served per fiscal year in Ohio has increased by 27%. We have felt this increase in our community, where _____ (include relevant reason for increase).

Please accept this letter as my/our (or employer's name) formal expression of support for an increase to the Rape Crisis Centers Line Item in the Ohio Budget.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Appendix B

Call-In Option Script - For Voicemail or Message Left with Aide

“Hello,

My name is _____, and I am calling in _____
(capacity) to express my/our support for the Rape Crisis Line
Item in the Ohio Budget. In my work, I have seen the strong
impact this fund has had on the residents of
_____ (community name). Over the past three
years, the demand for survivor and prevention services has
increased in _____ (community name), and an
increase in the Rape Crisis Centers Line Item is critical to the
stability of quality services for survivors.

Please express my support to (lawmaker name).

Thank you!”

Appendix C

Line Item in Budget



Budget in Detail

House Bill 49
132nd General Assembly

Main Operating Budget Bill
(FY 2018 – FY 2019)

FY 2016 – FY 2018 actual expenditures

FY 2019 adjusted appropriations
(as of September 11, 2018 in OAKS)

www.lsc.ohio.gov

September 17, 2018

FY 2018 Actual Expenditures and FY 2019 Adjusted Appropriations

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2017 to FY 2018 \$ Change	% Change	Adj. Approp. FY 2019	FY 2018 to FY 2019 \$ Change	% Change
ATH Ohio Athletic Commission								
Ohio Athletic Commission Total	\$ 288,344	\$ 277,887	\$ 297,222	\$ 24,336	8.92%	\$ 329,573	\$ 32,351	10.88%
AGO Attorney General								
GRF 055321 Operating Expenses	\$ 42,964,531	\$ 42,962,567	\$ 40,912,211	(\$2,050,356)	-4.77%	\$ 40,958,481	\$ 46,270	0.11%
GRF 055405 Law-Related Education	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 68,950	(\$1,050)	-1.50%	\$ 68,950	\$ 0	0.00%
GRF 055406 BCLS Lease Rental Payments	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,509,019	\$ 2,509,019	N/A	\$ 2,512,900	\$ 3,881	0.15%
GRF 055411 County Sheriff's Pay Supplement	\$ 798,254	\$ 832,228	\$ 891,392	\$ 59,164	8.41%	\$ 934,795	\$ 43,403	4.76%
GRF 055415 County Prosecutors' Pay Supplement	\$ 948,304	\$ 1,024,562	\$ 1,149,517	\$ 124,955	12.25%	\$ 1,204,369	\$ 54,852	5.00%
GRF 055421 Drug Abuse Response Team Grants	\$ 50	\$ 0	\$ 688,323	\$ 688,323	N/A	\$ 508,000	\$ (180,323)	-26.34%
GRF 055501 Rape Counselor Grants	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,509,000	\$ 1,529,406	(\$ 979,594)	-38.6%	\$ 2,509,000	\$ 979,594	63.46%
GRF 055502 School Safety Training Grants	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	N/A
Sub-Total General Revenue Fund	\$ 46,275,514	\$ 46,379,595	\$ 47,490,867	\$ 1,111,272	2.39%	\$ 49,732,865	\$ 2,241,998	4.73%
1000 055612 Attorney General Operating	\$ 62,948,630	\$ 60,432,100	\$ 65,104,021	\$ 4,671,921	7.73%	\$ 61,818,182	(\$1,285,839)	-2.00%
4020 055616 Victims of Crime	\$ 14,668,221	\$ 17,366,763	\$ 19,138,627	\$ 1,771,864	10.20%	\$ 20,624,291	\$ 1,485,664	7.70%
4170 055621 Domestic Violence Shelter	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,100	\$ 5,879	\$ 4,779	211.45%	\$ 2,400	(\$3,479)	-58.44%
4180 055625 Charitable Foundations	\$ 2,315,361	\$ 2,098,814	\$ 6,576,787	(\$ 4,477,973)	-21.32%	\$ 2,315,361	(\$4,261,426)	-183.61%
4190 055629 Claims Section	\$ 42,415,134	\$ 38,079,587	\$ 37,608,130	(\$ 471,457)	-1.24%	\$ 37,608,130	(\$4,807,004)	-12.51%
4200 055633 Attorney General's Office	\$ 1,237,524	\$ 1,237,524	\$ 1,237,524	\$ 0	0.00%	\$ 1,237,524	\$ 0	0.00%
4210 055617 Police Officers' Training Academy Fee	\$ 1,348,858	\$ 1,417,809	\$ 2,387,589	\$ 969,780	68.45%	\$ 1,348,858	(\$969,780)	-42.00%
4040 055608 OAKS Programs	\$ 3,088,071	\$ 2,899,571	\$ 2,899,571	(\$ 188,500)	-6.10%	\$ 3,088,071	\$ 188,500	6.50%
4770 055608 Title Defect Resolution	\$ 1,489,398	\$ 653,860	\$ 613,220	(\$ 40,640)	-6.22%	\$ 613,220	(\$ 7,640)	-1.24%

For the full text of the budget in detail, click [here](#).

Appendix D

Rape Crisis Line Item Talking Points

- With the expansion of service areas and providers, survivors accessed services at increasing rates, and the rate of reports to law enforcement also went up (if they ask, this indicates not that less rapes were happening before, but more survivors feel secure reporting and this means more offenders off the streets).

Year	Reports to Police
2013 (Last Year Without Line Item)	4,391
2014	5,228
2015	5,441
2016	5,589

*Data for 2017 is predicted to be published in late November 2018.

- Programs were able to engage in increased prevention programming that positively impacts Ohio communities.

Persons Prevention Trained

FY 15: 22,686 FY 16: 60,955 FY 17: 76,895

- As the number of programs and counties served increased, so too did the number of survivors requesting advocacy and other services.

Survivors Served

FY 15: 14,895 FY 16: 16,418 FY 17: 18,860

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding streams are currently unstable, and therefore the only prevention funding available is in jeopardy. The Line Item is an unrestricted funding stream that allows for prevention in many Ohio communities. If VAWA lapses, this will be the most important prevention funding source for Ohio communities.
- Local Program Stories