

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Endowment Act Funds
Project Summary and Analysis

Project Title: Endowment Act – Programs Assisting Victims

Applicants: 14 applicants in 12 counties

Project Duration: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Project Description:

On June 17, 2015, the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPD) at PCCD announced the availability of state Endowment Act (Act 1 of 2013) Funds. Act 1 outlines five categories which are eligible for funding for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth. For the purposes of this funding announcement, the following four categories were opened:

- (i) Programs or projects assisting the victims of child sexual abuse.
- (ii) Child Advocacy Centers (CACs).
- (iii) Victim service organizations that provide services to children subjected to sexual abuse.
- (iv) Training of persons who treat victims of child sexual abuse.

The Endowment Act – Programs Assisting Victims solicitation focused on providing funding to support programs or projects assisting the victims of sexual abuse. Applicants were eligible to apply for up to \$100,000. Funding under this category was limited to supporting:

- (i) Any program or project that assists adult and child victims/survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- (ii) Innovative programs or projects that reach victims/survivors of child sexual abuse which are underserved/unserved. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Serving adult male survivors of child sexual abuse.
 - Developing a pilot telehealth/telemedicine project for rural counties.
 - Supporting evidence-based programs to assist victims.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

In response to this solicitation, ORESPD received 32 applications requesting a total of \$2,295,358. The following table was prepared to provide highlights from the applications being recommended for funding. Staff is currently in the process of reviewing each application being recommended to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in the funding announcement.

The Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee and Staff are recommending approval of these 14 applications requesting \$1,072,834 in Endowment Act Funds pending the resolution of outstanding programmatic and fiscal concerns.

<p>Victim Outreach Intervention Center, Inc.</p> <p>Butler County</p> <p>Grant # 26334</p> <p>Amount: \$47,801</p>	<p>The Victim Outreach Intervention Center, Inc. (VOICE) is requesting \$47,801 to continue providing holistic services, which include individual and group counseling, medical advocacy, legal advocacy and support to child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. The project will also expand services/outreach to adult male victims of child sexual abuse. Project staff will provide an additional 2,000 hours of direct service to 60 survivors of child sexual abuse who have not previously received services from VOICE. These 60 survivors will be reached by engaging community partners, utilizing social media and using regular media outlets.</p> <p>Funds will be used to partially support three community based counseling advocates, the director of counseling and the assistant director. Funds will also be used to train staff on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and support operational expenses such as rent, utilities, telephone, insurance and equipment rental.</p>
<p>Pinnacle Health Hospital</p> <p>Dauphin County</p> <p>Grant # 26326</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>The Children’s Resource Center (CRC), through Pinnacle Health Hospital, is requesting funding to support the Central Pennsylvania Telehealth Network (CPTN), which provides a peer review network for CACs and hospitals that do not have access to a pediatric child abuse specialist. Examiners who participate in some type of peer review tend to provide greater accuracy in their examinations. As examiners become more confident in their ability to make the appropriate diagnosis, they will provide better care. The medical director for the CRC will provide peer review for Dauphin, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Franklin, Centre, Blair and Huntingdon Counties. Funds will be used to partially support the salary for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Pediatric (SANE-P) to work on the ground at J.C. Blair Hospital in Huntingdon County and Fulton County Medical Center, which are ready to implement this telehealth project. The project anticipates serving 400 children during the life of the grant. Funds will also support the medical director’s time, TeleCAM equipment and training, a colposcope digital imaging system and two laptops.</p> <p>Funding for this project is conditional on clarifying the target population to be served with Endowment Act funds and whether services are already being provided in some counties.</p>
<p>PathWays PA</p> <p>Delaware County</p> <p>Grant # 26264</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>PathWays PA is requesting support to provide individual and group counseling services for runaway and homeless teen girls, pregnant and parenting teen girls and homeless mothers and their children who are victims/survivors of child sexual abuse living in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties. Referrals for counseling will come from PathWay’s Center for Families which is a supervised group residence for homeless women and their children. Approximately 85% of clients served through this program have reported past sexual abuse. The funded therapist will hold four group counseling sessions per week, one with each population. The therapist will also provide individual counseling eight hour per week for a total of 1,014 hours throughout the life of the grant. Funds will be used to contract with two therapists specialized in adult and child trauma. Funds will also be used to support PathWays PA administrative costs.</p>
<p>PA State Chapter of CACs and MDITs</p> <p>Erie County</p> <p>Grant # 26259</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>The PA Chapter of CACs and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) is requesting funding to expand the MDIT training in 2016 with a focus on expanding NCA standards for 10 emerging CAC MDITs and supporting six MDITs in achieving NCA membership. Specifically, the PA Chapter will focus training on the challenges of MDIT turnover, MDIT interpersonal obstacles, implementation of new child protection laws and cultural history as barriers to healthy MDIT function and CAC growth and development. The project will serve approximately 70 individuals from the following developing CAC counties: Armstrong, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clearfield, Franklin, Mercer, Monroe, Somerset and Susquehanna-Wyoming. Emerging MDITs from Columbia, Pike and Venango will also be targeted. Funding will be used to partially support three PA Chapter staff, staff travel costs and training and attendee lodging and travel. Mentors from NCA member CACs will also be reimbursed time and travel expenses for providing services to developing CAC/MDIT counties.</p>

<p>Women’s Resource Center, Inc.</p> <p>Lackawanna County</p> <p>Grant # 26244</p> <p>Amount: \$63,437</p>	<p>Women’s Resource Center, Inc. (WRC) is requesting funding to support a specially trained counselor advocate who will work with children, teens and young adults who are victims of child sexual abuse. This program would serve both those who seek services at WRC and those who are currently involved with community partner agencies such as county treatment courts, drug and alcohol treatment programs and county probation. WRC currently works with the Lackawanna CAC so this project would in no way duplicate the services provided at the CAC. WRC will utilize a client empowerment counselor to help survivors process, uncover and express their emotions, including anger. Funding will be used to hire one full-time counselor advocate and partially fund the crisis and advocacy services director. Travel costs, training and administrative costs will also be supported.</p>
<p>CASA of Lancaster County</p> <p>Lancaster County</p> <p>Grant # 26340</p> <p>Amount: \$29,000</p>	<p>Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Lancaster County is seeking funding to increase the number of child sexual abuse victims served by CASA. CASA volunteers fill two specific roles in their CASA child’s life. Once appointed to a child a CASA remains that child’s advocate until he or she is in a safe, permanent and nurturing home. CASA volunteers also act as the voice in the social service and legal system for the child and can be the link from where the child is to where the child wants to go. Funds will be used to support a full-time volunteer manager who is responsible for mentoring and coaching 15 CASA volunteers, supporting and assisting volunteer activities and promoting retention of current volunteers. Funds will also be used to partially support a program director and general office supplies.</p>
<p>Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County</p> <p>Lawrence County</p> <p>Grant # 26307</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County is requesting funding to support the hiring and training of a licensed therapist to provide evidence-based therapy services to child and adult survivors of child sexual assault. One full-time therapist will provide Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to 75 children and adults during the funding year. TF-CBT is a psychosocial treatment model designed to treat posttraumatic stress and related emotional and behavioral problems in children and adolescents. EMDR psychotherapy is an information processing therapy that uses an eight phase approach to address the experiential contributors of pathologies for adult and child sexual assault survivors. Clients will be referred by staff at the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County and the Lawrence County CAC. Funds will be used to support a full-time licensed therapist, partially support an advocacy and counseling supervisor, cover training costs and administrative supplies.</p>
<p>Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries</p> <p>Lehigh County</p> <p>Grant # 26267</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries (Diakon) is requesting funding to support outreach, counseling and support services to adult survivors of child sexual abuse within Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry Counties. Diakon will implement Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) with approximately 120 adult survivors. Developed originally for use with rape and crime victims, CPT is evidence-based and begins with the trauma memory and focuses on feelings, beliefs, and thought which directly emanate from a traumatic event. A therapist helps the clients examine whether the trauma appeared to disrupt or confirm beliefs prior to this experience and then clients are taught to challenge their own self-statements in order to modify their extreme beliefs and bring them into balance. Funds will be used to hire a licensed mental health professional, partially fund an enrollment specialist, cover therapist travel and partially support administrative costs.</p>

<p>Victim Services Center of Montgomery County Montgomery County Grant # 26217 Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>Victim Services Center (VSC) of Montgomery County is requesting funding to expand and increase VSC onsite and offsite services to adult and children who are survivors and victims of child sexual abuse in the underserved and unserved communities of Norristown, Lansdale, Pottstown and Abington. The underserved and unserved populations include ethnic minorities and immigrants from the Pan-Asian, Asian Indians, Latino/Hispanic/Mexican communities, and African Americans, males and individuals from rural sections of the county. Onsite services will be expanded by offering services on two Saturdays a month. Services will include trauma focused counseling and therapy for adult and child survivors/victims of child sexual abuse, emotional support via VSC's crisis intervention hotlines, legal advocacy and support groups. Funds will be used to partially support the executive director and fully support two new mobile counselor therapists/advocates. Administrative costs and clinical supervision will also be supported.</p>
<p>Joseph J. Peters Institute Philadelphia County Grant # 26233 Amount: \$99,556</p>	<p>The Joseph J. Peters Institute is requesting funding to evaluate and provide evidence-based treatment and support groups to hard-to-reach low-income adults with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder resulting from histories of child sexual abuse and other traumas. The project's objectives are to: 1) provide trauma evaluation and case management to public housing residents at residential sites and at the centralized office of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, 2) conduct targeted outreach to men in public housing, 3) connect those in need to evidence-based trauma treatment, and 4) provide on-site support groups for male and female survivors of child sexual abuse at two public housing developments in North Philadelphia. The Institute anticipates evaluating 750 adults for histories of child sexual abuse and they anticipate connecting 450 people to evidence-based trauma treatment. Funds will be used to partially fund a therapist, case manager, accountant, program director and clinical supervisor. Funds will also be used for travel expenses and screening/testing materials.</p> <p>Funding is conditional upon clarification of the target population to be served and the services that will be provided to adult sexual abuse victims.</p>
<p>Support Center for Child Advocate Philadelphia County Grant # 26288 Amount: \$76,316</p>	<p>The Support Center for Child Advocate is requesting funding to provide community-based direct victim services to a caseload of clients who have suffered the trauma of child sexual assault and child sex trafficking. Over 30 victims will receive legal representation and other victim services in dependency and criminal child abuse prosecutions. A child advocate attorney, in collaboration with an agency social worker, will also provide whole-child advocacy to comprehensively assess and address the full range of each child's needs, including domains of safety, education, physical and behavioral health, and early trauma treatment. Project and agency staff will have extensive presence in court, at the child's home, engaging school and treatment professionals and participating in service plan meetings and other out-of-office activities. Referrals will come from the Philadelphia Children's Alliance, District Attorney's Office, the Family Court Filing Unit, Department of Human Services and the City Law Department. Funds will be used to support a child advocate attorney, travel costs and administrative costs.</p>

<p>CASA of Westmoreland, Inc.</p> <p>Westmoreland County</p> <p>Grant # 26342</p> <p>Amount: \$21,257</p>	<p>CASA of Westmoreland County is requesting funding to develop and implement a new training on child sexual abuse locally and regionally with other county CASA programs. CASA staff will also recruit, screen, train and supervise new community volunteers to advocate for child victims of sexual abuse. The collaborative training with Allegheny, Washington, Lancaster and Philadelphia CASAs will cover tools and topics to help the volunteer advocates identify children who have experienced sexual abuse, learn how to advocate and interact differently with this population, understand the impacts of trauma and benefits of trauma informed case and also the best ways to advocate for this population of children. CASA of Westmoreland also aims to recruit 15-30 new volunteers and serve 50-100 new child victims during the funding year. Funding will be used to partially fund an executive director and two advocate supervisors, travel for training development and material costs.</p> <p>Funding is conditional on clarification of the target population to be served.</p>
<p>Turning Point Women's Counseling Center</p> <p>York County</p> <p>Grant # 26301</p> <p>Amount: \$82,712</p>	<p>Turning Point Women's Counseling Center is requesting funding to provide adult women and teen girl survivors of childhood sexual abuse in York County with specialized therapy services to help them heal from their trauma. Services will be conducted by highly trained and skilled professional counselors and will include expressive therapies such as art, music, and sand tray therapies. It is estimated that Turning Point will provide 75 adult women and teenage girl survivors with over 700 counseling sessions which is a 40% increase in the number of counseling sessions provided by Turning Point over the last year. Referrals for services will come from the District Attorney's Office and the Children's Advocacy Center. Funds will be used to partially support a clinical director, art therapist, music therapist, executive assistant and executive director. Therapy supplies and online art and music therapy training will also be supported.</p>
<p>Leg Up Farm</p> <p>York County</p> <p>Grant # 26289</p> <p>Amount: \$52,755</p>	<p>Leg Up Farm is requesting funding to support an equine-assisted therapy program that will meet the needs of adult and child survivors of child sexual abuse by providing increased and innovative programming designed to assist those already receiving services by York's Victim Assistance Center (VAC) as well as those who are not due to being on a waiting list. The target population is individuals five years of age and older. Leg Up Farm anticipates serving 15 adults (10 women, 5 men) and 34 children/adolescents. Throughout the funding year, Leg Up Farm in collaboration with VAC will work to develop a curriculum based on this program that can be shared with the other 34 equine centers across Pennsylvania. Lessons will focus on emphasizing the personal strengthen of each participant, building trust, overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles, building self-esteem, teaching appropriate boundary setting, practicing communication skills, building relationships, discovering coping skills and trying new and challenging activities. Funds will be used partially fund program staff, transportation costs for child and adolescent clients, therapy supplies and curriculum development.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Amount Awarded: \$1,072,834</p>