



Domestic Violence Program

FY 2018 Annual Report

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

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MSAR #8611
December 31, 2018

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Background

In 1977, the Department of Human Resources 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 Resources 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 Resources to establish and administer 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 served to provide temporary shelter environments and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and their families, throughout the State.

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 (previously known as the Department of Human Resources) to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (Office), effective July 1, 2011.⁴ Specifically, the Act charged 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.

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 able and willing 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 program from the federal government, local governments, and private sources. Furthermore, and in accordance with § 4-516 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. This report satisfies this requirement.

Legislative Report

Pursuant to § 4-516 of the Family Law Article, this *Domestic Violence Program FY 2018 Annual Report* provides insight on the allocation of grant funds from the prior year versus the current year. In prior years, legislative reports pertaining to this grant program captured allocated awards from the same year which hindered the Office's ability to capture fully the effectiveness of its program and the outcome of such funds. The submission of legislative reports that capture data from the prior year allows the Office to report on the awarded amount per subrecipient, identify the expenditure of funds, and provide more insight and information as it relates to its outcome and effective use, as well as remain consistent with the information and data provided in other legislative funding reports.

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, service, and quality emergency public or private housing to provide to 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 (previously known as the Department of Human Resources) and 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.

At that time, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report defined a domestic violence incident to be considered as any crime where “*Any 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 cohabitat. This includes a homosexual relationship.*”⁶ In addition, a domestic violence incident in the Maryland Uniform Crime Report program is considered to be any crimes 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, Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting / Senate Bill 647, Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting](#).

⁶ Maryland Department of State Police. (2013). [Crime in Maryland: 2012 Uniform Crime Report](#).

Domestic violence reporting includes the nature of the victim’s relationship with his or her abuser. As illustrated in **Table 1. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Spouse Relationship**, and prior to 2013, the reported relationships between domestic violence victims and offenders consisted only of husbands, wives, and cohabitants.

	2011	2012	*2013	2014	2015	2016
Husband	1,974	1,889	1,866	1,754	1,766	1,688
Wife	4,843	4,883	4,761	4,148	4,223	3,985
Cohabitant						
Heterosexual Male	2,727	2,537	2,460	2,257	2,310	2,019
Heterosexual Female	8,261	7,868	7,342	6,514	6,607	5,606
Homosexual	404	438	388	382	395	377
Subtotal	18,209	17,615	*16,817	15,055	15,301	13,675

*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 a crime. This also includes homosexual relationships.*”⁸ 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.

⁷ Maryland Department of State Police. (2016). [Crime in Maryland: 2016 Uniform Crime Report](#). [This report is the most current Uniform Crime Report in Maryland.]

⁸ Maryland Department of State Police. (2014). [Crime in Maryland: 2013 Uniform Crime Report](#).

As illustrated in **Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship**, the expanded definition of domestic violence identifies “intimate partner” as a victim who had a sexual relationship with the suspect within 12 months before the commission of a crime.⁹ Due to its expanded definition, there has been an increase in the total number of domestic violence crimes throughout the State.

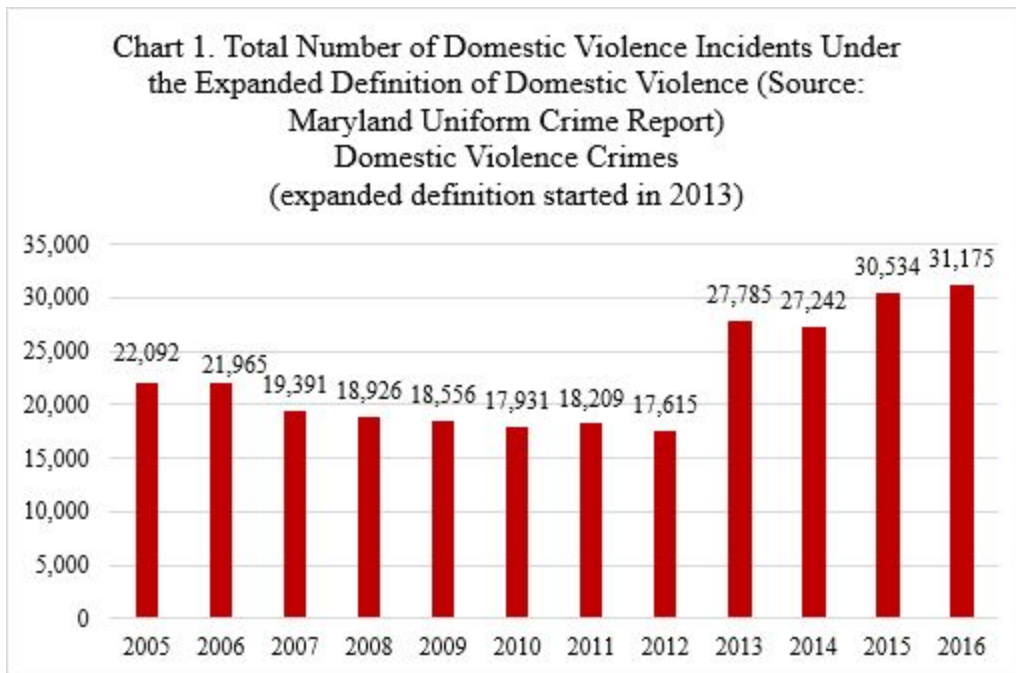
Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship¹⁰						
Relationships reported as of 2013	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sibling (brother or sister)	N/A	N/A	1,636	1,691	1,791	1,918
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, In-law	N/A	N/A	562	660	866	1,070
Grandchild or Grandparent	N/A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

*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.

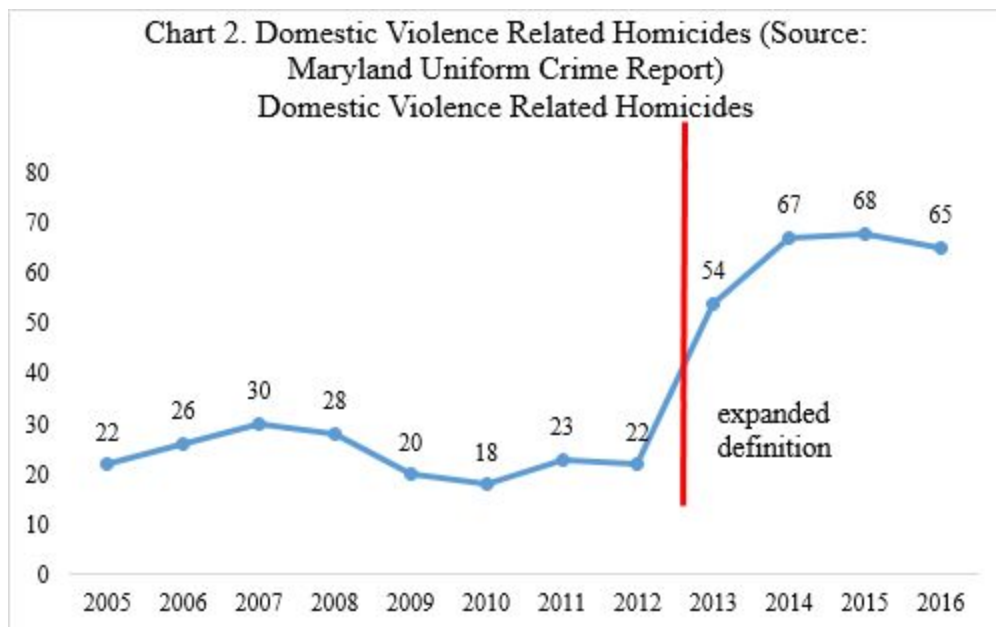
⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Maryland Department of State Police. (2016). [Crime in Maryland: 2016 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 17,500 domestically related crimes in 2016, which represents the additional relationships.



In 2016, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report identified 45 female homicides and 20 male victims, all of which determined to be domestically related (*as illustrated below*). These figures also reflect the expanded definition of domestic violence.



Maryland Domestic Violence Program

Pursuant to Chapter 356 of 2011, the Office administers the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV) which serves as a statewide program and is funded through the State's annual budget and through the 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 its 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 (*see [Appendix A](#) for a map of domestic violence service providers*). At the local level, these programs increase the likelihood that victims will benefit from the services provided, and helps to connect the victim to other community-based services as needed. Additionally, provision of services at the local level fosters a coordinated community approach to serve domestic violence victims that 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 one standard 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 2018, the annual State budget provided \$2,103,678 in general funds and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided \$1,804,176 in federal Family Violence Prevention & Services (FVPS) funds for the Domestic Violence (DOMV) program. Through this program, the Office awarded \$3,907,854 to subrecipients with comprehensive domestic violence programs to help prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence; to meet the needs of domestic violence victims and their families; and to meet the needs of those in underserved communities (*as illustrated below and on the following pages*).

Award Number	Award Amount	Project Title	Implementing Organization	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
DOMV-2018-0001	\$57,500	Provider Training	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program offered domestic violence trainings to four regions in the State, and provided opportunities for certification and service-enhancing regional collaboration. Program funds provided training costs.
DOMV-2018-1701	\$184,785	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	Harford County	The program provided a 24-hour helpline, crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, and legal advocacy and representation. Program funds provided salary support, contractual services, and operating expenses.
DOMV-2018-1702	\$176,829	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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 program, and community and outreach training. Program funds provided salary support.
DOMV-2018-1703	\$113,000	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	TurnAround, Inc.	Baltimore County	The program provided comprehensive services to adult and child victims/witnesses to include advocacy, crisis response, trauma therapy and safe placement. Available services occurred 24/7. Program funds provided salary support, operating expenses, and contractual services.
DOMV-2018-1705	\$183,251	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County	The program provided emergency shelter, counseling, 24-hour hotline, safety planning, and prevention services. Program funds provided salary support and operating expenses.

DOMV-2018-1706	\$126,919	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	Washington County	The program provided core, mandated services to victims of domestic violence and their families. Services included a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, information and referral services, counseling, legal services, specialized services for children, accompaniment, and supportive services. Program funds provided salary support, travel, contractual services, and training.
DOMV-2018-1707	\$364,410	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	Baltimore and Carroll Counties	The program provided services to domestic violence victims and their children. Services included a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, crisis and continuing counseling, information and referrals, legal services, specialized services for children, legal and medical accompaniment, abuser intervention program, and supportive services. Program funds provided salary support and operating expenses.
DOMV-2018-1709	\$207,127	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	Baltimore County	The program provided a 24-hour hotline, victim advocacy, community education and outreach, counseling, emergency shelter, case management, abuse intervention program, and information and referrals. Program funds provided salary support.
DOMV-2018-1727	\$128,710	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	Garrett County	The program helped to develop and implement strategies to provide assistance to domestic violence victims. Services included 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-2018-1729	\$461,997	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program provided comprehensive crisis and ongoing support services which increased awareness of IPV and services, decreased victims' risk of further incidents and harm, and increased safety for victims and their families. Services included 24-hour hotline services, crisis and ongoing counseling, emergency shelter, legal services, community education and training, and abuse intervention program. Program funds provided salary support, operating expenses, and travel.
DOMV-2018-1736	\$99,150	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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 salary support and contractual services.

FVPS-2017-0001	\$51,974	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	Baltimore City	The program provided services to domestic violence victims and their children. Services included a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, crisis and continuing counseling, information and referrals, legal services, specialized services for children, legal and medical accompaniment, abuser intervention program, and supportive services. Program funds provided salary support and operating expenses.
FVPS-2017-0002	\$53,450	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program provided comprehensive crisis and ongoing support services which increased awareness of IPV and services, decreased victims' risk of further incidents and harm, and increased safety for victims and their families. Services included 24-hour hotline services, crisis and ongoing counseling, emergency shelter, legal services, community education and training, and abuse intervention program. Program funds provided salary support, operating expenses, and travel.
FVPS-2017-0003	\$20,000	Family Justice Center Technology Solutions Project	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	Montgomery County	The program provided substantial technology improvements to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) to promote efficiency and accessibility of services for domestic violence survivors. FJC opened in 2009. Under the auspices of the sheriff's office, FJC is a co-location of public agencies and community non-profit organizations that work together to end family violence in the county. The U.S. Department of Justice also identified family justice centers as a best practice in victim services. Program funds supported equipment.
FVPS-2017-0005	\$64,460	Hybrid Forensic Nurse Examiner Program	Mercy Medical Center	Baltimore City	Program supports technology upgrades of current database and training modules allowing the agency to continue to train Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) and eliminate statewide shortages secondary to attrition. This assisted in addressing many of the educational deficiencies that presently exist across the State, and continued a precedence of assuring that state mandates are met by serving victims in their communities. Program funds provide personnel, contractual services, equipment and other.
FVPS-2017-1622	\$139,185	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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 as well as shelter at the Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter. Program funds provided salary support.

FVPS-2017-1701	\$250,813	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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 salary support.
FVPS-2017-1702	\$145,972	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	Wicomico County	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 salary support and operating expenses.
FVPS-2017-1704	\$219,045	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Talbot County	The program helped to develop and implement strategies intended to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence in Kent, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Queen Anne's counties. Crisis and support services were provided to rural and underserved victims of domestic violence, including hotline services, crisis counseling, shelter, medical accompaniment, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, outreach, and training. Program funds provided salary support, operating expenses, contractual services, and travel.
FVPS-2017-1705	\$187,958	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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. Services included individual and group counseling, emergency shelter, legal assistance, community education and outreach, 24-hour crisis hotline, and medical accompaniment. Program funds provided salary support and contractual services.
FVPS-2017-1708	\$136,455	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Cecil County Department of Social Services	Cecil County	The program provided services to including 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 salary support, contractual services, and operating expenses.
FVPS-2017-1710	\$124,514	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Walden Sierra, Inc.	St. Mary's County	The program provided services to adult and child victims. Services included 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 salary support, operating expenses, travel, and training.

FVPS-2017-1722	\$228,350	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	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 salary support, travel, and contractual services.
FVPS-2017-1723	\$182,000	Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services	Montgomery County, Maryland	Montgomery County	The program helped to develop and implement strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. Services included ongoing crisis intervention, victim advocacy, safety planning, case management, and court accompaniment. Program funds provided salary support.
Total	\$3,907,854				

Conclusion

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

Appendix A

