

MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE FOR VICTIM
ASSISTANCE



VICTIM & WITNESS
ASSISTANCE BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2017

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MA ALLIANCE OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKERS (MAPS) RECEIVES VICTIM SERVICE “ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD” AT STATE HOUSE

BOSTON – During Victim Rights Month in April, Attorney General Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) recognize individuals and agencies that have made notable contributions to victim rights and services.

The Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) received this year’s “Access to Justice Award” for making domestic and sexual violence services available to Portuguese speaking populations in the greater Boston, Lowell, and MetroWest areas.

MAPS provides crisis intervention, case management, safety planning, guided referrals, and medical and legal advocacy services to victims. MAPS Advocates link clients to an array of other services that range from naturalization assistance and applying for social welfare supports to finding housing, jobs and health care. Almost all of MAPS staff are bilingual and come from the communities they target – making services language and culturally accessible for all Portuguese-speaking immigrants.

MAPS works closely with area shelters, Rape Crisis Centers, courts, police departments, and religious communities to increase access and referrals to services. MAPS also trains community members on ways to identify and respond to instances of domestic and sexual violence, and works with state officials and partners like the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Jane Doe, Inc., and others to develop and promote statewide responses to combat violence throughout the state.

“We are honored to receive this recognition from MOVA”, said Paulo Pinto, MPA, MAPS Executive Director. “It’s wonderful to see our Advocates’ hard work and dedication be recognized, especially by such an important partner such as the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance. Their support has been crucial in allowing MAPS to expand its Domestic Violence

and Sexual Assault program, established 20 years ago, to other offices throughout the Greater Boston area.”

“During Victim Rights Month we have an opportunity to recognize those who help some of the most vulnerable and innocent among us. These individuals provide critical services to victims, and we are proud of the work they do in our communities,” said Attorney General Maura Healey.

“Culturally competent and accessible services are critical to reach non-English speaking populations experiencing domestic and sexual abuse,” said Liam Lowney, Executive Director of MOVA. “MAPS programming has successfully linked Portuguese speaking populations with the supportive counseling, safety planning, and social services they provide – making a true difference to individuals in these communities. MAPS continues to be a leader in promoting accessibility of services as well as prevention efforts across the state, and for these reasons we are thrilled to present them with the Access to Justice Award.”

To learn more about MAPS and the services they provide, please visit www.maps-inc.org or call (617) 864-7600.

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