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**MOVA Awards \$3.5M in Emergency Funding to Support Victim Services**

**BOSTON, MA., May 7, 2020** - The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) has awarded \$3,511,417 to 71 victim service agencies to provide emergency funding in response to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis. Temporary funding will be available through June 30, 2021 to programs as they navigate the impacts of COVID-19 in providing services and emergency support to clients.

“Social distancing has left survivors of violence isolated from the people and communities that support them,” said **Liam Lowney, executive director of MOVA**. “This can have devastating impacts on the physical safety, mental health, and overall well-being of victims, survivors, and their loved ones. Additionally, the community-based and government programs dedicated to serving these crime victims have had to adapt their work practices to effectively and compassionately deliver services through telework. This funding will help programs meet the unique challenges survivors are facing today and will continue to face as this crisis evolves.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disparate impact on some of the most vulnerable among us, including survivors and victims of crime who may be confined at home with their abuser, under increased stress and pressure, or isolated from their usual support systems,” said **Attorney General Maura Healey, Chair of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board**. “This emergency funding will help us ensure that they have access to the resources and support they desperately need during this crisis.”

Emergency funding will be available to cover a variety of costs incurred as a result of the pandemic. Approved funding will be used for temporary personnel costs to address direct victim services staffing gaps, agency support for telework, and increased client assistance. For victims, agencies may use funding to provide rental and utility assistance, emergency shelter and/or relocation, personal necessities such as clothing and food, and transportation in the event of an emergency.

Agencies funded with emergency dollars are in a unique position to provide services and supports to the Commonwealth’s victims of crime, as they are currently supported by MOVA and/or the Department of Public Health (DPH) to do so. They are experiencing a considerable need based on the impact of COVID-19, along with reporting a significant need for their clients. This funding will further support these programs by ensuring services can continue, staff have the capacity to telework, and clients receive the supports they need.

MOVA operates under the guidance of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board (VWAB). The VWAB administers federal funds for victim services available through the Federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), VOCA statute 34 USC 20103, which authorizes states to subaward annual VOCA grants for the financial support of eligible crime victim assistance programs.

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Attorney General Maura Healey, Chair | Liam T. Lowney, Executive Director

Victim Service Program	Funding Award
Ascentria Community Services	\$48,956.00
A Safe Place	\$12,358.00
Asian Task Force Against DV	\$100,000.00
BARCC	\$50,000.00
County of Barnstable	\$5,595.00
Berkshire County Kids' Place	\$48,929.00
Behavioral Health Network	\$45,250.00
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	\$49,951.00
Boston Medical Center	\$48,518.00
Brigham & Women's Hospital	\$49,988.00
Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County	\$50,000.00
Casa Myrna	\$50,000.00
CASA Project	\$15,000.00
Center for Hope and Healing	\$50,000.00
De Novo	\$67,268.00
Community Healthlink	\$18,630.00
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	\$5,000.00
Centerboard	\$50,000.00
DOVE	\$50,000.00
Domestic Violence Services Network	\$35,000.00
Elizabeth Freeman Center	\$50,000.00
Elizabeth Stone House	\$50,000.00
EHS/Department of Transitional Assistance	\$27,192.00
Umass Amherst	\$24,158.00
Fenway Health	\$49,988.00
FINEX House	\$50,000.00
Greater Boston Legal Services	\$26,857.00
HarborCOV	\$63,062.00
HAWC	\$90,000.00
Health Imperatives	\$50,000.00
Southeast Family Services/SSRAC	\$49,979.00
Independence House	\$49,996.00
Jewish Family & Children's Services	\$50,000.00
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center	\$49,994.00
Justice Resource Institute	\$26,446.00
The Key Program	\$49,517.00
Louis D Brown Peace Institute	\$43,200.00

LUK Crisis Center	\$30,358.00
Massachusetts Children's Alliance	\$3,546.00
Massachusetts Parole Board	\$8,832.00
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers	\$39,000.00
Massachusetts Department of Public Health	\$450,000.00
Mothers for Justice and Equality	\$25,300.00
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	\$10,000.00
Martha's Vineyard Community Services	\$50,000.00
Child & Family Services	\$29,501.00
New Bedford Women's Center	\$50,000.00
NELCWIT	\$49,521.00
New Hope	\$59,587.00
On The Rise	\$47,571.00
Plymouth County District Attorney's Office	\$50,000.00
Portal to Hope	\$26,951.00
Pathways for Change	\$49,586.00
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence	\$100,000.00
RIA House	\$49,855.00
RESPOND	\$50,000.00
Safe Passage	\$50,000.00
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office	\$49,112.00
The Second Step	\$50,000.00
South Middlesex Opportunity Council	\$49,999.00
Stanley Street Treatment and Resources	\$49,963.00
Transition House	\$50,000.00
Triangle	\$20,131.00
Umass Medical Center	\$49,190.00
Benevolent Fraternity/UUUM	\$49,186.00
Victim Rights Law Center	\$49,789.00
Wayside Youth and Family	\$45,560.00
Middle District Attorney's Office	\$22,085.00
Womanshelter/Companeras	\$45,962.00
YWCA of Central Massachusetts	\$50,000.00
YWCA of Western Massachusetts	\$50,000.00
	<b>\$3,511,417.00</b>