

Hi,

I am sure your office is already aware of this, but many of our partners across Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County have expressed deep concerns over recent VOCA cuts. This jeopardizes their abilities to offer domestic violence services, court advocates for victims of violence, etc.

Above, I am attaching a few documents for your reference...

1. The VOCA crisis sheet outlines the issue at-hand, and notes the total state-wide reduction in funding. Ohio is estimated to experience a -\$92,314,175 reduction change, (FY '18-FY '21)
2. A infographic on how VOCA funding impacts children in Ohio
3. An outline of a proposed VOCA fix that went to key Congressional members in late October
4. Lastly, an action alert sent from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Of the five entities I have talked to locally, who all are funded partners of United Way: Their cuts already total over a million dollars. Additionally, since the pandemic, partners have seen increased requests for DV services. Depending on the size of the agency, these cuts dictate how this impacts the longevity of their work. Some institutions may be able to make it to the end of Q1, whereas others might be forced to close their doors in the near future.

If you haven't seen it already, [please take a look at this article from the BG Independent](#). The Cocoon, Wood County's only DV shelter, is experiencing a severe cut that could dramatically impact their ability to serve residents in their rural community. Also, LAWOW will have to end a pilot program at their Lima office...not in our personal service footprint, but a local funded partner and still important to note.

Just let me know if you would like to be connected to a local partner / other local partners, or experts for more information.

Best,