



~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ~

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DOVE (D*O*mestic Violence Ended), Inc.

Receives Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Funding

Awarded by Baker-Polito Administration



(L-R) DOVE Civilian DV Advocate, Katheline Leconte, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, DOVE Civilian DV Program Manager, Maureen Flores.

Boston- On Monday, October 17, 2016, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$2.8 million to 39 communities across the state to support their efforts in combating violence against women. DOVE is pleased to announce that they are one of the domestic violence service agencies in the Commonwealth that will be receiving a portion of these grant funds to support their mission.

The grant funds made available through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services Training Officers Prosecutors (VAWA STOP) Program are administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research.

This grant money will help community-based organizations, such as DOVE, Inc. as well as local and college police departments strengthen and further develop services available to aid survivors.

"The Violence Against Women Act allows for collaborative approaches between community-based agencies, municipalities, and state agencies to address the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "These grants are critical to develop and strengthen law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services in cases of violent crimes against women."

"We are pleased to provide these awards to agencies that have demonstrated expertise in their respective program areas of victim services, prosecution, law enforcement, and the court system across the Commonwealth," **said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Dan Bennett**. "We look forward to continuing this strong partnership to advance the critical missions that these organizations fulfill."

DOVE is proud to be one of the organizations that has been chosen in this \$2.8 million grant allocation, allowing the work of their Civilian Domestic Violence Advocacy Program to continue. VAWA grants have helped to fund DOVE's Civilian Domestic Violence Advocacy Program for eight years, enabling the program to expand its support network to a greater number of police departments and court systems.

Based out of Quincy, Randolph, Dedham, Milton, Norwood, and Holbrook Police Departments, DOVE's Civilian Advocates work with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, offering information and support and assistance with restraining orders and other criminal legal matters when requested. Aside from offering advocacy services to survivors, these Civilian Advocates play a crucial role in helping police departments respond most effectively to domestic violence calls as they serve as a pivotal bridge of communication between these parties.

Assisting nearly 500 domestic violence survivors in the past year alone, the Civilian Domestic Violence Advocacy program has proven to be an essential part of DOVE's programming and ultimately their clients' success. DOVE is thrilled that this program will continue to help domestic violence survivors across Norfolk County. All services are confidential, provided free of charge, and are available by appointment.

About DOVE, Inc.

DOVE, Inc. is committed to partnering with diverse communities, families, and individuals impacted by domestic violence. We promote hope, healing, safety, and social change by providing a broad range of preventive and responsive services.

Over the last 38 years, DOVE has sheltered nearly 5,000 families and answered more than 50,000 hotline calls. DOVE provides community services in 17 cities and towns in Norfolk County and the South Shore and also works in partnership with the Dedham, Holbrook, Milton, Norwood, Quincy, and Randolph Police Departments, as well as with the Quincy and Dedham District Courts and Norfolk Probate & Family Court. All services are confidential, provided free of charge, and are available by appointment.

For more information, visit www.dovema.org or call

❖24-Hour Hotline: 617-471-1234 or 1-888-314-DOVE (3683)

❖Community Advocacy & Prevention Services: 617-770-4065

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