



PEACEFUL PATHS: CRITICAL BUDGET SHORTFALL

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING GAP 2023-2026



FUNDING HISTORY - VOCA

- Due to a reduction in fines and penalties paid by Federal criminal offenders between 2017-2021, programs across the country and state are losing vital support. For Peaceful Paths, which provides the only domestic abuse services for residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union counties, it means a loss of nearly \$1 million, or one-third of our budget. Peaceful Paths lost \$500,000 in October 2023, with another \$400,000 in cuts coming October 2024.
- This funding represents 40% of our victim services budget, including all Legal services, all Economic Empowerment programming, High Risk Advocates, Shelter Advocates, Trauma Counseling, and operational costs in insurance, utilities, and supportive housing.
- We need the County to assist us in filling the gap left by the current and coming reductions to ensure that our critical services remain intact.

LOSS IMPACT 2023

- One Lawyer: provides injunction services, referrals and advice to 200 victims annually
- Economic Empowerment Coordinator: provides housing, financial literacy, and case management to over 250 survivors a year
- High Risk Advocate: provides case management to more than 100 victims identified as high risk by police
- Outreach Advocate: provides support to 5-7 survivors walking in for services weekly
- Two Part-time Staff at Shelter: provides coverage for helpline, resident services, and facility support, especially during high occupancy periods and when staff are out
- Trauma Counseling Services: Sessions for survivors reduced from 16 to 12 – reduction from \$180,000 to \$107,000
- Supportive Housing Resources: Supplies and maintenance support for the six Campus apartment units was cut \$35,000
- Direct Client Assistance: Cash support for relocation was cut by \$55,000 - only have \$20,000 for the year
- Operations Support: Utility, insurance and office supplies are all cut over \$80,000

ALACHUA COUNTY SERVICES

- Peaceful Paths gives survivors and their children access to a wide range of free and confidential safety and support services that save lives and create change
- During 2023
 - 89% of all clients were Alachua County Residents (1239 of 1399)
 - 97% of all services Peaceful Paths provided took place in Alachua County (53214 of 54860)
 - 37% of Alachua County survivors were identified as High Risk (458)
 - 304 survivors received 1753 Trauma Counseling services in Alachua County which put \$178,000 back into the economy.

REQUEST

- Peaceful Paths is requesting that the County Social Services budget include \$250,000 for critical DV services. The inclusion should use Revenue Recovery funds (as suggested by commissioners). We are requesting these funds from October 2024 through September 2027. This will allow us to cover 30% of the cut and ensure that critical services to the 1500+ survivors are not reduced. This funding will cover 4 critical areas:
 - Salary for Shelter Staff
 - Contracted Trauma Therapy
 - Salary for Outreach Staff
 - Agency Operations for Supportive Housing, Utilities, and Insurance

ALACHUA COUNTY FUNDING HISTORY

- The current CAPP contract includes \$96,095 annually for emergency shelter and children's programming.
- In the last 3 year contract, Peaceful Paths received \$160,116 annually for shelter and children's programming.
- The request we are making now would ensure that services will not be further reduced, and would allow us to move out of the CAPP process for this next RFP process.
- The funding request equates to \$4.70 per service provided to Alachua County Residents using this year's numbers (\$250,000/53,214).
- We do anticipate that by 2026-2027, the VOCA funding will be back to this year's level, and our next CAPP request in 2027 could go back to the 2020 request of \$175,000.

IMPACT OF THE COUNTY INVESTMENT

- Peaceful Paths is the ONLY provider of emergency shelter, trauma counseling, high risk safety and support, and advocacy and support services to adult and child survivors in the County.
- We continue to fundraise more than \$500,000 annually and bring more than \$2.5M into the community from state and federal grants that employ 43 people and support a variety of local contractors, landlords, and vendors from security, maintenance, utilities, and supplies.
- Everything that the County invests in our programming goes directly back into the community economy and fights the intersection of poverty, homelessness and vulnerability that survivors face.

QUESTIONS?

