



To Whom It May Concern:

A public hearing will be held by the Office of Attorney General Dave Yost on January, 23, 2020 at 9:00AM in the Large Conference Room in the Rhodes State Office Tower, Floor 17, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

The purpose of the hearing is to solicit comment on Rules 109:7-2-01 – Definitions; and, 109:7-2-02 – Procedures for programs to request funding from the Domestic Violence Baseline Fund. Specifically, the rules add definitions to the Administrative Code for OAC 109:7-2 and procedures that must be followed when an entity is requesting funding from the domestic violence baseline fund.

The specific amended language of the rule is as follows:

109:7-2-01 **Definitions.**

(A) "Administrative costs" means expenses incurred in managing the domestic violence baseline fund. Administrative expenses include, but are not limited to, salaries, benefits, and other expenses incurred in the course of operating the fund.

(B) "Domestic violence program" means any of the following:

(1) The nonprofit state domestic violence coalition designated by the family and youth services bureau of the United States department of health and human services;
or,

(2) A program operated by a nonprofit entity the primary purpose of which is to provide some or all of the services described in Promising Practices, Standards for Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs.

(C) "Domestic violence baseline fund" means the fund created in the state treasury, consisting of money appropriated to the fund by the general assembly or donated to the fund.

(D) "Domestic violence" has the same definition as Section 3113.31 of the Ohio Revised Code.

109:7-2-02 **Procedure for programs to request funding from the Domestic Violence Baseline Fund.**

(A) A domestic violence program that wishes to obtain funding from the domestic violence baseline fund shall complete the application established by the Attorney General, found on the Attorney General's website at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/. The Attorney General shall approve or disapprove programs for funding, and approve or disapprove the disbursement of money from the domestic violence baseline fund.

(B) Any application for funding from the domestic violence baseline fund shall be submitted to the Attorney General by the date required in the application and shall comply with all procedures outlined in the grant application.

(C) To be eligible for funds from the domestic violence baseline fund, an applicant must submit:

- (1) Proof of services provided as defined by the Promising Practices, Standards for Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs;
- (2) A statement of purpose regarding the use of the funds;
- (3) A budget;
- (4) A fully completed application as determined by the Attorney General; and,
- (5) Any other required information.

(D) The Attorney General may award funds from the domestic violence baseline fund to a domestic violence program that meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (C) of this rule and submits a proposal for one or more of the following purposes: to provide victims of domestic violence with access to hotlines, emergency shelter, victim advocacy, and other support services.

(E) The Attorney General shall use the money in the domestic violence baseline fund in the following manner:

- (1) 5 percent shall be assessed against the balance of the fund for administrative costs on an annual basis;
- (2) 10 percent shall be disbursed for training funding to the statewide domestic violence coalition; and,
- (3) The balance of the fund shall be dispersed to programs as awarded by the Attorney General.

(F) Any organization awarded funding from the domestic violence baseline fund shall not use the fund for purposes including, but not limited to:

- (1) Lobbying activities;
- (2) Grant making without prior approval;
- (3) Executive bonuses;
- (4) Offender rehabilitation or counseling;
- (5) Fundraising activities; and/or,
- (6) Medical costs.

All interested parties are invited to attend the hearing and present oral and/or written testimony. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the hearing to the attention of Andrew Hopkins, Policy and Legislation, Office of the Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, 30 East Broad Street, Floor 17, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or Andrew.Hopkins@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov no later than Tuesday, January 21, 2020 by close of business. For security purposes, please also notify Andrew Hopkins if you plan to attend the hearing no later than Tuesday, January 21, 2020 by close of business.