WCADV Receives Allstate Grant to Continue Work of Economically Empowering Survivors

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Madison—The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) announced its award of a promising grant from the Allstate Foundation. The Moving Ahead Financial Empowerment Grant will allow WCADV to continue and expand programs across Wisconsin that are designed to reduce the financial insecurity that keeps many victims tied to abusers.

“We are grateful for this generous grant from the Allstate Foundation,” said Patti Seger, executive director of WCADV. “Now more than ever, victims desperately need support in achieving economic self-sufficiency. We know many victims’ path to physical security can only be achieved when they have the financial security to live independently of their abusers.”

Experts say domestic violence occurs in all socio-economic groups, but they also point out poverty makes it much more difficult for an abused woman to leave a violent relationship.

Funds will support the distribution of Allstate’s economic empowerment training curriculum throughout the state for use at local domestic violence programs. The grant will also invest in more comprehensive services in two Wisconsin communities, Appleton and Milwaukee.

Sojourner Family Peace Center in Milwaukee will be provided funds to support the Life Skills component of its Family Advocacy and Support Services program. Participants are eligible for financial literacy training, credit counseling, tax assistance and micro-financing to start a business or get a certification.

Harbor House in Appleton will use its portion of the grant to maintain and enhance the Women Obtaining Work (WOW) initiative. WOW offers victims the ability to participate in a host of comprehensive job readiness programs.

“This grant will bring hope to thousands of survivors in Wisconsin,” said Seger. “I believe the programs in Appleton and Milwaukee, in particular, represent some of the most innovative victim advocacy projects in the country. Integrating financial literacy, job readiness and even micro-financing into the services available to victims has the potential to transform lives.”

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