

PCADV and Allstate Foundation Expand Financial Independence Initiative for Domestic Violence Victims

(Dec. 16, 2013) HARRISBURG, PA – The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence is pleased to announce the expansion of a partnership with Allstate Foundation to help domestic violence victims gain economic independence and safety.

This new grant for \$61,200 from Allstate Foundation is to expand and enhance PCADV's Investing in Survivors' Financial Independence Initiative. The grant will fund four pilot job readiness and training programs at Wise Options in Lycoming County; the Centre County Women's Resource Center; AWARE in Mercer County, and the Victims' Intervention Program in Wayne County.

Additionally, Allstate Foundation is funding a matched savings program at the four pilot sites that will encourage survivors to save funds to achieve financial goals such as purchasing a vehicle or pursuing post-secondary education.

"PCADV and its statewide network of 60 community-based domestic violence programs know, from more than three decades of working with victims, that financial instability ranks as the No. 1 reason why they stay with or return to their abuser," said Executive Director Peg Dierkers. "Many victims endanger themselves so their children can have a home. By preparing victims for the workplace and teaching them budgeting and financial planning skills, this initiative gives them the tools they need to obtain employment, save money and start new lives free from abuse."

The initiative includes statewide financial education training and technical assistance for advocates who work with survivors and assisting local programs in developing and strengthening community partnerships with experts in financial management, credit repair, higher education, job training, employment opportunities and housing.

Last year, Allstate Foundation gave PCADV a grant to do three regional financial education trainings and pilot a job training and job readiness project at Wise Options in Lycoming County where victims learn such skills as interview techniques and resume building. That effort was so successful the foundation decided to continue its support of the initiative and its partnership with PCADV with this second grant.

PCADV, the nation's oldest statewide coalition against domestic violence, is a private nonprofit organization working at state and national levels to eliminate domestic violence, secure justice for victims, enhance safety for families and communities, and create lasting social change. Its statewide network of 60 community-based programs provides direct services to domestic violence victims, including 24-hour emergency hotlines, shelter, counseling, legal and medical advocacy, children's programs, transitional housing and many other free and confidential services.

Since 1952, Allstate Foundation has created practical, proven programs to help thousands of individuals and families overcome personal challenges and uncertainties so they can lead better and safer lives. PCADV thanks Allstate Foundation for its commitment to helping domestic violence victims find safety and build new lives. For more information, please contact, Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq., project manager at PCADV, at 1-800-932-4632.

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