

Independence House is awarded \$122,000 state grant

Hyannis agency to partner with YPD

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- One in three women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Source: RESPOND

BOSTON - The Independence House in Hyannis will receive \$122,850 from the state to increase safety planning, crisis intervention, and counseling services as part of the statewide Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants, State Rep. Kip Diggs (D-Barnstable) announced Monday.

The Yarmouth Police Department will also will receive be given \$59,375 to partner with Independence House on domestic violence prevention and support services. The awards were made through the Executive office of Public Safety and Security's annual Shannon Grants.

Diggs said the Yarmouth Police Department would be partnering with Independence House social workers to further awareness about programs and services for those who have experienced violence or threats at home or work.

According to RESPOND, a national organization tracking domestic violence statistics both national wide and in individual states, one in three women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, as will one in four men. It takes a woman an average of seven attempts to leave before they finally separate from an abuser, and there are an average of 15 domestic violence fatalities in Massachusetts each year.

Said Yarmouth Police Chief Frank Frederickson: “This grant gives us the opportunity to hire a civilian advocate who can follow up with victims of domestic violence. It will greatly help break the cycle, because we can’t do it all ourselves. This will really help get the services and programs to people who need it.”

Said Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, the executive director of Independence House, “we are extremely pleased and grateful for this collaboration. We are looking forward to working with the Yarmouth Police Department on sexual and domestic violence programs in Barnstable.”

In total, \$3 million in VAWA grants were given to 37 communities and organizations throughout the state. The formal announcements were made by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito on Monday.

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/register/2021/01/27/independence-house-awarded-122-000-state-grant/6701288002/>