



IDAHO LEGAL AID SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IDAHO LEGAL AID RECEIVES \$466,000 GRANT

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women awards Legal Assistance to Victims funds to Idaho Legal Aid Services to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Boise, Idaho (January 11, 2017)

Idaho Legal Aid Services has received \$466,000 to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The three-year grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, will be used to implement the *Stopping Violence, Changing Lives* project. This project will create a statewide safety net for low income survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking who desperately need civil legal help, but don't have the money to obtain it. This project will help survivors, many with young children, gain freedom from abuse and achieve stability in their lives by addressing the legal issues that commonly stem from violence. Idaho Legal Aid Services will collaborate with crisis centers, the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, and the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence to ensure survivors across the state receive the legal assistance they deserve. All project services will be provided at no cost.

Domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking are significant problems in Idaho. The Idaho Supreme Court reported that in 2015, there were 4,706 civil protection orders filed due to domestic violence or sexual assault. According to the Idaho State Police, between 2008 and 2013, there were 32,761 domestic violence related charges filed statewide, and one in four homicides during that time were committed by intimate partners. While defendants in criminal cases have a constitutional right to legal representation, the same cannot be said for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Survivors of these crimes who struggle with poverty are often forced to navigate the legal system on their own, often with terrible results. Idaho Legal Aid Services is thrilled to have received funding that will help more victims of violence in Idaho receive legal support when their most basic human needs are at stake.

For more information about this project, contact the Project Manager, Sunrise Ayers, at (208) 345-0106 or sunriseayers@idaholegalaid.org.

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