

Cayuga County agency awarded more than \$360,000 to help domestic violence survivors



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For the second straight week, a Cayuga County agency has been awarded a federal grant to support programs that assist domestic violence survivors.

U.S. Rep. Dan Maffei and U.S. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer announced Tuesday that Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency will receive \$364,681 through the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women.

The grant, according to Cayuga County's federal representatives, will be used to fund the agency's existing programs and to hire a court advocate, who will assist domestic violence survivors with the legal system and support them in court.

"This funding will ensure Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency is able to continue providing essential support and advocacy services to domestic violence survivors in our local communities," Maffei, D-Syracuse, said in a statement. "I will continue to fight for these critical resources for agencies across Central New York that are working to make our families safer."

Laurie Piccolo, the agency's executive director, thanked Gillibrand, Maffei and Schumer for their support of CSCAA's efforts to secure the federal grant.

"This funding is more great news for our organization, and will allow us to enhance our advocacy efforts for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Cayuga County," Piccolo said.

Last week, Gillibrand, Maffei and Schumer **announced that the agency was awarded a \$352,416 grant**. The federal funding will help CSCAA provide transitional housing assistance to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

The most recent grant announcement comes a week before the start of October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There will be **several events held locally to raise domestic violence awareness**.