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LASCO Receives \$700,000 in Funding to Provide Legal Services to Ohioans Impacted by Opioid Crisis

Columbus, OH — Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) has received \$700,000 in grant funding to provide needed legal services to Ohioans impacted by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The funding will support services in multiple regions of our 36-county service area.

The grant from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, which was announced last week, will go toward addressing the social and legal issues that can increase the risk of substance abuse and fatal overdoses. Applying legal solutions to social determinants of health like safe housing and economic independence can create pathways toward recovery and stability. These funds will allow us to establish partnerships with OUD treatment and prevention providers, offer expanded free legal services, and provide training to our staff to improve our cultural competence and intake processes around OUD, said Kate McGarvey, executive director of LASCO.

"We are honored to receive this critical funding from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, which enables us to address the legal needs of those impacted by the opioid crisis," McGarvey said. "These funds will help us support individuals and families as they navigate challenges, rebuild their lives, and move toward brighter futures."

The grant is part of an inaugural round of approximately \$51 million in funding made available by the Foundation as part of its mission to combat the opioid epidemic by supporting prevention, treatment and recovery programs and services in our communities. The grant money was funded by 55 percent of settlement funds that Ohio is receiving from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic.

Across Ohio, organizations like LASCO are working day in and day out to strengthen their communities that have been impacted by the opioid epidemic, said Alisha Nelson, Executive Director of the OneOhio Recovery Foundation.

“We’re pleased to partner with LASCO to support their efforts to save lives, rebuild families affected by addiction, and foster strong and resilient places to live,” Nelson said.

The recipients announced as part of the Foundation’s first grant cycle were chosen after a robust review process that included evaluation by the local OneOhio Regional Board, the OneOhio Expert Panel and the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

About Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio: *LASCO (formerly Southeastern Ohio Legal Services) is a nonprofit organization that provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and families in central and southeast Ohio. LASCO helps clients resolve legal problems involving housing, family law, domestic violence, and other critical areas of law to improve their safety, stability, and economic security. For more information, visit www.lasco.org.*

About the OneOhio Recovery Foundation

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation created under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost, and other state and local leaders, with the mission of advancing Ohio’s addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts now and into the future.

The Foundation is governed by a 29-member board from across Ohio and is funded by 55 percent of settlement funds that Ohio is receiving from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic. Funds support local efforts to prevent and combat addiction and are also invested to support those efforts for the long term.