



Miami Valley Community Action Partnership Employment Legal Clinic Wins Economic Mobility Grant from U.S. Conference of Mayors

Release Date: February 21, 2019

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors selected the Miami Valley Community Action Partnership (MVCAP) Employment Legal Clinic to win a 2019 DollarWise Innovation Grant.

The \$10,000 grant rewards cities with innovative programs or policies that foster economic mobility and income stability efforts for their residents. Mayor Nan Whaley accepted the award in Washington, D.C. in January at the winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The MVCAP Employment Legal Clinic seeks to remove common barriers to employment and self-sufficiency. The clinic provides one-on-one assistance to reinstate suspended driver's licenses, secure driving privileges, and seal criminal records for Montgomery County residents living on the economic margins.

"In a community like Dayton, losing a driver's license can mean losing a job," said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. "The work of the MVCAP Employment Legal Clinic to restore driving privileges and remove other barriers to employment is crucial for breaking cycles of poverty in our community."

In 2017, 1.1 million Ohioans - or nearly 12 percent of eligible drivers - had a suspended license. The loss of a driver's license has a particularly devastating impact on low-income people by imposing crushing financial obligations and can lead to unemployment for those with no means to pay the required fines and no way to get to work. The clinic fills a gap by working with the courts to eliminate or reduce exorbitant penalties that prevent clients from getting their driver's and professional licenses back, while often covering the client's accumulated fees and court costs.

"Our agency is so grateful to Mayor Whaley, who supported our nomination," said

MVCAP Executive Director Cherish Cronmiller. "With these funds, we will have the opportunity to serve clients that often fall in the 'benefit gap,' unable to qualify for our services at 125% of the poverty level, but still too poor to hire private counsel or afford reinstatement costs."

For more information about the MVCAP Employment Legal Clinic, visit <https://miamivalleycap.org/legal-clinic/>. For more information about the U.S. Conference of Mayors DollarWise program, visit <https://www.usmayors.org/dollarwise/>.

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