



740.818.3624
434 W. Union St., Athens, OH 45701
nate@athensphotoproject.org
www.athensphotoproject.org

October 22, 2025

Diane Pfaff
317 ADAMH Board
7990 Dairy Lane
Athens, OH 45701

RE: One-time funding request for Hocking and Vinton Peer Support expansion

Dear Diane,

Athens Photographic Project (APP) is thrilled to accept Integrated Service for Behavioral Health's (ISBH) invitation to transition operations of their two Peer Houses in Hocking and Vinton Counties to APP during FY26 and FY27. APP recognizes the 317 ADAMH Board's historic investment in these two Peer Houses and is dedicated to maintaining this funding partnership in order to expand opportunities and engagement for peers in Hocking and Vinton Counties.

APP and ISBH leadership have met consistently since mid-August to discuss the possibility of transitioning the operation of Hocking and Vinton Peer Houses to APP. Through these meetings APP and ISBH developed a transition plan that both partners are confident will meet the needs of their organizations, the individuals they serve, and the overall Hocking and Vinton communities.

APP and ISBH propose a 12-month period of capacity building and transition of services with the goal of APP managing operations for each Peer House and providing Hocking and Vinton peer support services by October 2026.

APP respectfully requests **\$165,071** from the 317 ADAMH Board as a one-time allocation to support the capacity building required to include Hocking and Vinton Counties within APP's contracted scope of work with 317 ADAMH Board and to effectively transition existing ISBH peer services to APP.

Each Peer House includes long-term members, staff, and community partners who need to be involved in this transition. APP aims to build relationships with these vital stakeholders and engage in peer community development throughout Hocking and Vinton Counties during this 12-month period. This collaborative approach is expected to help APP know how to maintain necessary services and how to expand mental health peer support opportunities in response to service gaps and community goals.



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APP is certified with the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (ODBH) as a Peer Run Organization (PRO) and is certified to provide Peer Recovery Support. APP aims to collaborate with peers and others community stakeholders to explore how the establishment of PROs in Hocking and Vinton Counties can be effective tools in maintaining and expanding services that are truly peer driven and ensure individuals with lived experience have a voice in their community.

The 317 ADAMH Board's one-time investment in this important transition of services ensures APP has the capacity to:

- Dedicate APP's Executive Director to serving as the project manager for this transition and to restructuring APP's organization to serve A-H-V.
- Recruit and train staff based on identified community needs.
- Develop service contracts to support identified community needs.
- Secure funding and community partnerships to support service expansion.
- Make one-time capital and equipment purchases to support identified community needs (example: Passenger van purchase).

APP is committed to enhancing the culture of peer support in Hocking and Vinton Counties in a way that is highly collaborative and that is empowering of both community members who have been invested in peer support and those who have the potential to be.

I am available to discuss this proposal in more detail and to present it to your Executive Committee and Board at your October 27th meeting. Thank you in advance for considering how the 317 ADAMH Board can support APP and ISBH in this project.

Sincerely,

Nate Thomson
Executive Director