

## 2009 – 2010 CDBG/HOME APPLICANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

**Name of Organization:** Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

**Project Title:** Domestic Violence Response Team

**1. The parent organization provides services for all Yolo County residents in the Davis facility. Please clarify who will be covered under the CDBG grant. Will the grant include participants who become residents when they move into project housing?**

The grant will cover immediate response to Davis residents who are victims of domestic violence. Domestic Violence Response Team Advocate (DVRT) reviews police reports taken by Davis PD officers responding to domestic disturbances within the City of Davis. The DVRT Advocate at Davis Police Department will provide services to victims that fall within the jurisdiction of Davis Police Department who are covered by this grant.

**2. There are 111 total program participants and 102 will be served by the CDBG Grant. How will the other participants be served?**

Most victims are willing to talk to an advocate or at least learn about the importance of having a safe exit strategy or free legal or therapy services that are available to them. Others are contacted and do not wish to speak to anyone, or be provided any information. We do not count this as a service provided even though the advocate must try. In that sense, 111 victims/police reports are included in the forecasted numbers, but an estimated 102 will receive at least some follow-up services and information.

**3. The project lists sources of funding using acronyms. Please provide a key explaining the full names of the contributing agencies/**

The acronyms for sources of funding listed on the application are as follows:

DVAP – Domestic Violence Assistance Program; State of California

RCC – Rape Crisis Center; State of California

SART – Sexual Assault Response Team; State of California

MCH – Maternal Child/Adolescent Health; State of California

CHAT – Child Abuse Treatment; State of California

RPE – Rape Prevention Education; State of California

WSPD – West Sacramento Police Department

CDBG – Woodland Community Development Block Grant Woodland

EHAP – Emergency Housing Assistance Program

ATV – Alternatives to Violence Batterer's Intervention Program (Court-Ordered – Fees for Course Instruction)

YCSO Inmate Program – Yolo County Sheriff's Office (Domestic violence counseling for female inmates.)

**4. What services currently provided by the DVRT Advocate would the SADVC provide to domestic violence victims, as part of its overall program, if there were no DVRT Advocate?**

The following are services that the DVRT Advocate provides that are critical and unique to the position: Communication with victims is most important within 24 to 48 hours after they have been battered. This requires that an Advocate have police department access and affiliation to review all domestic violence police reports, talk to the reporting officers, analyze the information and safety concerns based on the police report and provide immediate intervention before the apology or "honeymoon" phase of the Cycle of Violence sets in.

A recent 2008 publication in the League of Cities magazine demonstrated the cost-effective relationship that some non-profits provide in terms of vital public safety and other services that would otherwise be far more expensive for City staff to perform the same services. A non-profit employee is far less expensive than a detective, for example. Police agencies do not have the staff time and resources to follow-up with all victims, provide crisis counseling over the phone or other information about services in the county which victims may need in order to feel confident that they can leave and be supported through the entire process.

It is also an unfortunate condition that exists that some officers become less sympathetic to victims who keep returning to the abuser, even though they know this is part of the process. There is much danger involved in a domestic violence call for service. This brings a level of officer tension and frustration to the table that is not inherent in the advocate's role. Many advocates work with officers to keep perspective because it takes a victim an average of 7 times to leave an abuse relationship.

#### **5. What determines who gets services by the DVRT Advocate as opposed to the SADVC, generally?**

The DVRT Advocate is skilled in immediate response, crisis counseling, and safety planning and referral services. They are sensitive to the fact that injuries are fresh, fear is heightened, and children are extremely vulnerable at this time. Advocates are often the first point of contact for victims who may eventually seek shelter, legal or therapy services. Many victims are intimidated by law enforcement or courts. The DVRT Advocate will assist them with filling out restraining orders, understanding the court process and other issues that occur while the crime is recent.

The SADVC offices in Woodland can provide free long term therapy, but victims in Davis who are in crisis are more likely to seek help and support if they feel that the support is local/accessible, and if they do not have the added complication of travel to another city to speak to someone. The advocate is more familiar with the Davis PD officers involved and can better assist them in mediating both victim and police department needs.

#### **6. Are the services provided by the DVRT Advocate provided by police departments in other cities?**

Most law enforcement agencies have a Detectives Section responding to many different kinds of cases whereas a Domestic Violence Advocate focuses only on the complexities of domestic violence and related needs of victims and their families. Depending on the number and priority of cases that a Detectives Section may have, time is often not available to follow-up with victims when the victim's schedule permits. Officers also have shift work, so the officer who takes the report during the day may have to come in on over-time or have someone else follow up with a victim. Officers also promote and rotate to different a section which does not allow a victim the same opportunity to develop trust and rapport with the voice on the other end of the phone. Many police agencies do not have enough female officers to cover every shift, or may have few if any females in the detectives section. Female domestic violence victims are often more comfortable talking with a female. Many people simply fear police or are intimidated by the uniform. An advocate from a non-profit agency in plain clothes has a perceptible difference to the victim and the children.

#### **7. In the absence of CDBG funds, would the SADVC provide DVRT Advocacy by a less than full-time advocate?**

The amount of funding requested currently pays for approximately 25% of the full time position that supports the Davis Police Department. Without the funding from the Davis CDBG, it is likely that victims who reside in the City of Davis would have to come to Woodland for follow-up services. SADVC Crisis Referral Cards are agency provides free to all officers on patrol. Officers would likely provide victims with a suggestion that they call SADVC. Many victims will stare at the card for a few days and never take the step to make the phone call.

**8. What's the minimum amount of funding you need to maintain the DVRT in Davis?**

\$8,500 is what SADVC received in the past and while this amount no longer covers costs related to the position, it would at least be consistent with what is in the current budget.

**9. Due to limited funds, what is the minimum amount, that your agency could benefit from/use?**

Our agency is able to use any funds graciously offered by the City of Davis. If the DVRT position were not sufficiently funded and had to be eliminated, funding could be applied toward the SADVC Shelter Program (a secret location somewhere in Yolo County); outreach and prevention to youth in local schools; legal or counseling services, all of which can focus in Davis.

Responses are due **NO LATER THAN MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>**. The responses should include both the questions and answers. Responses must be submitted via e-mail. E-mail should be addressed to [kcames@cityofdavis.org](mailto:kcames@cityofdavis.org). Responses should not be mailed.

**DEADLINE: MARCH 6, 2009 at 5:00 P.M.**