

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

State Department:
NJ Department of Children and Families
Name of Expenditure Program:
Domestic Violence- Staff Expansion
Amount:
\$3,285,000

Overview:

The network of domestic violence shelter programs work together to provide an emergency network of safe shelter and supportive non-residential services. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) works closely with the domestic violence lead agencies in providing services to families with co-occurring child abuse and domestic violence.

As part of the emergency planning and response coordination through DCF and the NJ Coalition for Battered Women, lead agencies provided operational updates on the status of their programs concerning Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012. By October 30, 2012, twelve (12) of the twenty-two (22) domestic violence lead agencies' shelters were closed, evacuated and residents safely relocated. Community outreach offices providing non-residential services were also impacted by the storm. Hotline and emergency telephones were forwarded to sister programs in NJ or to the National Domestic Violence Hotline at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

As we know from previous natural disasters, a time of stress follows these events and a family's ability to cope is often stretched to its limit. Programs that work with victims and their families are also coping with their ability to function within the normal course of business after a natural disaster. These programs are usually small non-profit operations that do not have surplus financial resources or additional staff to reallocate or reassign to address the increase of requested services. Victims and their families may be relocating to a new county that they are unfamiliar with and may need extra support to transition from their county of origin to a new county and back again, if feasible. Increase in needed services may take more time in order to help domestic violence victims remain safe. In order to prepare for the increase of needed supportive services additional staff to the domestic violence programs is needed.

Increase in needed services may take more time in order to help domestic violence victims remain safe and recover from the added trauma resulting from a natural disaster. In response to this increased need of services, DCF intends to allocate \$ 3,285,000 to the twenty-one (21)

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Domestic Violence (DV) lead agencies in the State of New Jersey to increase domestic violence agency staff to provide counseling and support services to effectively and efficiently meet the expected increased demand. Additional staff will provide the each agency the extra capacity to work with families affected by the storm. This additional staff member will be assigned to the Trauma and Relocation Assistance (T.A.R.A.) project. The added staff will work closely with the victim family adjusting to possible relocation to an unfamiliar county and assist transition back to home county, if return is desired.

Victims and their families may be relocating to a new county that they are unfamiliar with and may need extra support to transition from their county of origin to a new county.

It is anticipated that the length of stay in the new county may be longer than usual and customary due to the lack of housing resources from storm damage

Federal Department of Origin:

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services – The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, (P. L. 113-2); “Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds” to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and other social services facilities.

Federal Requirements / Restrictions:

Funds to be totally expended by September 30, 2015.

Also subject to Integrity Oversight monitoring via Assembly Bill A60 (A-60)(P.L.2013,c.37).

Additional State regulations related to Governor Christie's Executive Order 125, as well as all applicable federal and state regulations for Procurement and Grants Management

Selection Standards:

This is an expansion of existing contracts through an increase in the number staff at 21 proposed agencies. Each grantee is part of the network of lead domestic violence agencies throughout the state. Each of these agencies has the specialized skill and facility to provide safe shelter and supportive counseling to victims and their family.

Eligibility Standards:

All domestic violence victims shall be served and the additional staff shall serve all victims.

Other Notes:

Some domestic violence agencies may have declined funding and funding may be reallocated in the future.