



Department of Justice

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$22 MILLION IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Justice Department announced today that it is awarding \$22 million to 116 communities to support projects that move domestic violence victims and their children into permanent housing. Awards made under this program provide assistance to victims who need transitional housing as a result of fleeing a domestic violence situation and for whom emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention services are unavailable or insufficient. The Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women administers the Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program.

"In order for a battered woman to feel safe, her basic survival needs must be met," said Diane M. Stuart, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women. "These needs include economic self-sufficiency and safe, affordable, and permanent housing. Without these necessities, there is a very real danger she will return to her abusive partner."

Under the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (The PROTECT Act), transitional housing awards may be used to provide short-term housing assistance - including rental or utilities payment assistance and aid with related expenses - and support services designed to enable domestic violence victims to locate and secure permanent housing, as well as integrate into a community. Project activities include a broad range of individualized services such as transportation, counseling, child care services, safety planning, employment, and counseling.

The Justice Department has awarded these grants to non-profit organizations - including faith-based organizations - state and local governments, and Native American tribes in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

For more information on the Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program or other issues involving violence against women, go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo

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