



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2009
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PAO
(202) 514-2007
TDY (202) 514-1888

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS RECOVERY ACT GRANT TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

\$2.9 Million to Support Programs in Marin, Tulare, San Mateo, San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles Counties

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Eric Holder today announced that more than \$2.9 million in Recovery Act funds have been awarded to six California transitional housing programs by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Recovery Act Transitional Housing Program. The funds are being awarded to Marin Abused Women’s Services, Family Services of Tulare County, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse in San Mateo County, Women’s Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and House of Ruth and Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs in Los Angeles County. These grants are in addition to the \$500,000 awarded to the Support for Harbor Area Women’s Lives (SHAWL) House, which Attorney General Holder announced while on a visit to Los Angeles in July.

“The most vulnerable in our society too often bear the greatest burden in times of economic hardship, which is why dedicating these funds to help survivors and their families get back on their feet is a concrete example of the Recovery Act at work,” said Attorney General Holder. “Providing viable temporary housing options and services that promote self-sufficiency are critical and proven steps toward violence-free lives.”

The Department of Justice is awarding \$413,023 to Marin Abused Women’s Services (MASW) for the organization’s Second Step Transitional Housing program (SSTH). The project’s goals are to increase availability of transitional housing units and permanent housing for victims of domestic violence and continue the provision of SSTH programs and services. SSTH will use the funds to acquire two to three new units of affordable transitional housing, provide support services for the new units through coordination with Marin Continuum of Housing and Services, work for administrative systems changes with Marin Housing Authority to increase the availability of HUD housing vouchers for victims of domestic violence for use with obtaining transitional and permanent housing, continue SSTH housing and services with enhancements to economic development activities and services and work for administrative systems change to increase child care options for SSTH residents.

The Department of Justice is awarding \$500,000 to Family Services of Tulare County to sustain and increase the availability of transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. This project will allow Family Services to maintain the three units of transitional housing and support approximately 10 additional subsidized rental units per year, increase the availability of transitional housing services by supporting two staff positions and increase the ability of violence and abuse survivors to obtain job training and education that will increase

employability and help survivors overcome challenges such as substance abuse or trauma that can serve as barriers to self sufficiency.

The Department of Justice is awarding \$500,000 to Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) in San Mateo County, the only agency in San Mateo County dedicated to confidentially serving victims of domestic violence and that has the only transitional housing program exclusively for victims of domestic violence. The project will provide short-term financial assistance and holistic supportive case management services to homeless victims of domestic violence through the Expanded Transitional Housing (ETH) Program. The ETH program will enable CORA to serve the low to no income population of San Mateo County.

The Department of Justice is awarding \$500,000 to the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County to provide holistic, voluntary, victim-centered services that move individuals into permanent housing and employment. Specifically, the project will support the operational expenses of two additional units to house an estimated four to six adult victims during the 36 month grant period, provide short-term housing assistance for 10 to 15 clients of the program, assist clients in developing an individualized Self-Sufficiency Plan and furnish support services to enable them to integrate into the community and locate and secure permanent housing, create three new staff positions (employment specialist, case manager and childcare specialist) and increase hours and retain employment for project staff, assist clients in developing an individualized employment plan and provide employment related support services, including employment counseling, job training and educational support.

The Department of Justice is awarding \$500,000 to House of Ruth, Inc. in Los Angeles County to provide transitional housing along with supportive services to 15 clients who are homeless as a result of fleeing domestic violence. They will provide rental subsidies and assistance with household furnishings for transitional apartments and also provide 30 clients with employment assistance to increase their ability to obtain a job. Minor renovations will be done on 5 transitional units to make them wheelchair accessible and two new positions will be created for the project: a full time transitional project manager; and an employment specialist.

The Department of Justice is awarding \$520,755 to the Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs for their Transitions project that will serve 150 victims for whom emergency shelter and interventions services are unavailable or insufficient due to co-occurring substance addiction. The Transitions project will assure immediate safety for battered, substance-addicted victims and their children, increase availability of transitional and permanent housing for these victims, reduce victim mental health complications and empower victims through increased job readiness. Specifically, the Transitions project will add an additional 10 new DV transitional beds in unused agency shelter space, create three new domestic violence worker positions and add housing case management, mental health counseling and vocational and educational readiness services.

The landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law by President Obama, provides the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) with \$43 million for the Transitional Housing Assistance Program to provide holistic, victim-centered support services that move individuals into permanent housing.

Transitional housing programs meet the goals of the Recovery Act through employing victim advocates and other personnel to assist victims, renovating housing for victims, offering additional housing units, and increasing job opportunities for victims through training, education and other support services. The award period for these grants is 24-36 months.

OVW, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

More information is available at www.ovw.usdoj.gov.

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