

# Domestic Violence Victim Services

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

## Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Domestic Violence Victim Services program distributes state and federal funding dedicated to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. Domestic violence programs consistently report that DSHS funding is critical to keeping their doors open and providing life-saving services to members of their communities.

Domestic violence is the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner and includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse against the partner. It is part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another.

Services are provided through contracts with community-based agencies and local government agencies and include:

- Safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis helplines, emergency shelter, individual advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, child care assistance during advocacy and support group sessions, age-appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter, emergency transportation assistance, information and referrals, community education and prevention activities.

The majority of service recipients receive non-shelter-based services such as advocacy, assistance with protection orders and other legal issues, and access to support groups.

Contracted domestic violence agencies provide services to individuals and their dependent children hurt or harmed by domestic violence. Education and outreach activities are conducted with community groups and individuals interested in learning about domestic violence, available services and prevention.

## Highlights in SFY 2020

- Local domestic violence programs served a total of 17,588 victims and their children, of whom 4,318 received emergency shelter-based services and 17,588 received non-shelter-based services.
- 39 domestic violence shelter programs provided 188,766 shelter bed-nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 40 days.

### More information:

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(9/2021)