

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 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 and in communities, assistance with finding and retaining safe housing, transportation and other emergency assistance, information and referrals, community education and prevention activities.

Most 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 State Fiscal Year 2022

- Local domestic violence programs served a total of 17,288 victims and their children, of whom 4,018 received emergency shelter-based services and 13,270 received non-shelter-based services.
- 39 domestic violence shelter programs provided over 162,500 shelter bed-nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 40 days.

More information:

Alexis Marx, Chief, Office of Programs and Policy
Phone: 360.819.0675
Email: Alexis.Marx@dshs.wa.gov



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

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(8/2023)