

PROGRAM APPLICATION

2010-2011 Grant Process

SECTION 2

(If you are seeking funding for more than one program, complete a separate program application for each)

Program Name Shelter

Address (Program Location) P.O. Box 645, 215 West Main Street, Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

Phone 570-424-2093 Fax 570-424-2094

Primary Contact for Program Jane Koelble, L.S.W.

E-Mail Address jmk.wrnc@verizon.net Website www.wrmonroe.org

Name the targeted community concern addressed through this program (i.e. youth delinquency)

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Provide a brief written summary of the program seeking funding in 2010-11.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, approximately 63% of homeless women have experienced domestic violence in their adult lives.

Violence affects all individuals regardless of class, gender, race, or education level. In Monroe County, Women's Resources is the only emergency crisis shelter available for individual and family victims of domestic or sexual violence seeking safety. Operating 24 hours per day, battered women and children are able to utilize the temporary housing for up to 30 days within any 6-month period. Men and families with teen-aged boys are provided shelter within alternate facilities (i.e. hotel). In addition, case management, counseling/support services, legal advocacy and referrals are provided for victims and their family.

The critical need and substantial increase of families in crisis due to domestic and sexual violence has overwhelmed our ability to serve all people with emergency sheltering. In fact in 2008-2009, we turned away 74 people. Due to the high volume of people utilizing our emergency shelters our facilities have experienced the stress of volume associated with shelter usage. As a result, the organization has embraced the need for renovations. Upon complete rehabilitation and renovations of shelters, we will facilitate a maximum number of beds offered to families in crisis. At the beginning of the fiscal year we hope to complete an extensive renovation in the second shelter doubling our capacity to serve people in need. Our request in increase funding reflects the costs of operations for the two shelters. United Way is a critical partner in subsidizing the costs necessary for successfully operating our emergency shelters.

What is the target population(s)? Give supporting demographic need information and source.

The target population served is all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. When an individual leaves the home where the violence is taking place the risk to her safety is likely to increase, making a domestic violence shelter a safe haven for the individual and any children in the family. Shelter need is further complicated by minimal resources, rural/social isolation, cost of housing, heightened familial, and economic stressors. The Family Violence Prevention Fund (2009) indicates

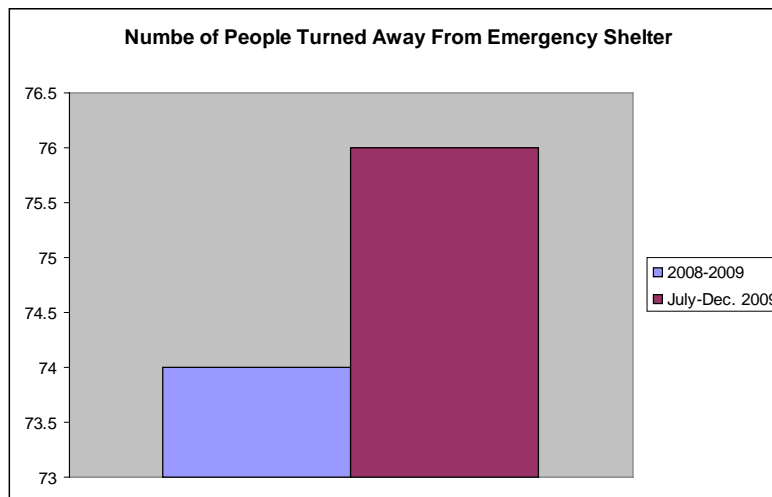
that domestic violence is pervasive in U.S. society. They also report that in a single day in 2008, 16,458 children were living in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing facility. Another 6,430 children sought services at a non-residential program.

Consider the following information about children witnessing violence from Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (2003).

- Studies indicate that child witnesses, on average, are more aggressive and fearful and more often suffer from anxiety, depression and other trauma-related symptoms.
- Children growing up in violent homes often take responsibility for the abuse and may feel guilty for not being able to stop it.

Monroe County local demographics regarding domestic and sexual violence include the following:

- During 2008-2009, because of our facilities were filled to capacity, 74 people were turned away from shelter.
- In the last six months, Women's Resources has turned away 41 adults and 35 children, which is slightly over the entire amount of people turned away from emergency shelter in all of last year. The chart below demonstrates these results.



Based on community need and available shelter days we have seen shelter requests increase dramatically.

Describe how the program improves the lives of the targeted population

The shelter program gives victims immediate safety and a healing space. Through counseling and support, individuals establish goals, learn of community resources, adopt skills to help themselves and their children, and gain confidence in knowing that no one deserves to be hurt. Shelter sometimes serves as a respite for someone who is not ready to leave giving her/him more resources to live safely in the relationship. Shelter provides families with healing time and allows victims to become empowered while realizing they control their life, not an abuser.

When Women's Resources cannot house women and children living in abusive situations many times they remain in the unsafe situation with their batterer. Some may live in their car or seek other shelter resources throughout the county. The number of clients with coexisting problems has led to increased care needed for victims with complicated and multiple victimizations. The substantial need for our services increases the need of routine maintenance of our shelter facilities; this causes a rise in operational costs for maintaining two emergency shelters.

Many survivors continue to find future solutions in the counseling or hotline program. One of the trends we've identified is a survivor need for intense interventions or services over an extended period of time. Many victims come to Women's Resources for one issue and after counseling begins, they realize the traumatic experiences they have gone through. Within the course of counseling a survivor may realize what seemed like an isolated incident was actually caused by a chain of events in their life. For victims who have been in tumultuous relationships their whole lives this may mean they have been victimized in multiple ways including sexual, physical, and mental abuse. This pattern for increased service needs has moved us to offer additional counseling services and resources. Due to the increased levels of trauma and resources necessary to support survivors; we are seeking additional funds for critical counseling.

We identify shelter success with two key indicators post service including safety and knowledge of community resources. Goals set for this year include continuing to ensure the safety of persons seeking emergency shelter, as well as increasing their knowledge of safety planning community resources. Additionally we hope to increase independence and the sense of hope for clients seeking refuge at the emergency shelters.

Comments from shelter residents include the following:

"The shelter helped me by getting me out of a bad situation and helped me through it. It was good that every time I need someone, all I have to do is call."

"[Shelter] gave me many resources."

"[Shelter] gave me a sense of reality."

"Shelter helped me with options and a safe place to stay."

"[Shelter] made me feel safe, the counseling made a difference."

"[Shelter] helped me get away from Abuser."

Complete Program Outcome Worksheet (attach using UWMC template)

Complete Program Financial Form (attach using UWMC template)