

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 significant 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, and is a 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 2019

- Local domestic violence programs served a total of 25,016 victims and their children, of whom 5,096 received emergency shelter based services and 19,920 received non-shelter based services.
- 39 domestic violence shelter programs provided 230,906 shelter bed-nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 45 days.

More information:

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Transforming lives

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