

CITY OF NORWICH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT • APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
PUBLIC SERVICES

PROGRAM YEAR 2020 (PY 46) • SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

DUE: WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2020 AT 4 PM AT 23 UNION STREET, NORWICH, 2ND FLOOR

Office of Community Development
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PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

AGENCY: Safe Futures, Inc.

LEGAL NAME
(if different from Agency) _____

ADDRESS: 16 Jay Street
New London, CT 06320

E-MAIL: msoussloff@safefuturesct.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Katherine Verano, Chief Executive Officer

CONTACT NAME AND TITLE: Margaret N. Soussloff, Director of Grants & Compliance

TELEPHONE: (860) 447-0366 ext. 214

AGENCY FISCAL YEAR: 7/1 _____ 6/30 _____
Begin End

PROGRAM OR PROJECT NAME: Norwich Domestic Violence Response Team (NDVRT)

CDBG REQUEST & AWARD AMOUNTS:	REQUEST	AWARD
UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR: (September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021)	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$</u> _____
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR: (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020)	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>

The information contained herein and attached as exhibits hereto is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete and that the City of Norwich can rely upon these statements in determining whether to fund this project. We certify that the Agency Board of Directors has approved this application.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/DEPT. HEAD
Katherine Verano, Chief Executive Director
Printed Name

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Laura Mooney, Ph.D., President, Co-Chair
Printed Name

DATE

DATE

PART II: PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION/AGENCY INFORMATION

A1. Brief History

Safe Futures was established as the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc. in 1976 to be a resource center and rape crisis hotline for women. In 1978, Genesis House, a shelter for battered and abused women, was opened and a 24-hour hotline was established. Phoenix House, the first domestic violence transitional living program in Connecticut, opened in 1991, and violence-prevention education programs were added in 1992. In 2004, the agency created a domestic violence team in partnership with the Norwich Police Department as part of the Victim Advocate Law Enforcement program. In 2007, the agency helped to establish a dedicated domestic violence docket in the New London court and created the first domestic violence supportive housing program in Connecticut that provides intensive case management to chronically homeless families affected by trauma. In 2012, the Women's Center changed its name to Safe Futures to better reflect those being served, the full scope of programs, and to highlight the importance of violence prevention and breaking the cycles of violence in our work. Also in 2012, the agency, in collaboration with Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, piloted the Lethality Assessment Program with four local municipal law enforcement agencies, which is now a statewide program. In 2016, the agency expanded the transitional living program to include scattered-sites. In 2018, the agency was recognized nationally as being the first domestic violence shelter in Connecticut to accept victims with pets. In 2019, the agency acquired the Norwich-based Bethsaida Community, Inc. with their on-site programs Katie Blair House and Flora O'Neil Apartments.

The mission of Safe Futures is to save lives, restore hope, and change the future for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut.

Services are provided to those in need regardless of income level, age, ethnicity, disability, and gender. Last year, Safe Futures served: 196 women, children, and men, along with their pets, who were homeless due to abuse, in our emergency shelter (or in hotels when the shelter was full); 73 women, children, and men, along with their pets, who were homeless due to abuse, in our transitional housing programs; 33 women, men and children in our Supportive Housing Programs; 7,053 individuals seeking counseling and court support services for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking, with 3,660 being new clients; and 6,605 students and 453 educators and community members participating in our prevention education programs.

A2. Hours of Operation

Safe Futures provides services during the following hours of operation:

- New London Counseling & Advocacy Office - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.
- Norwich Counseling & Advocacy Office – Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.
- Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVAs) in the New London and Norwich Criminal Courts – Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.
- Civil Family Violence Victim Advocates (CFVVAs) in the New London and Norwich Civil Courts - Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.
- Victim Advocate Law Enforcement (VALE) program located in the Norwich Police Department - varying days, 7 hours/week (For Fiscal Year 2020: partially funded with City of Norwich CDBG PY 45 funds. Continuation of program based on available funding for Fiscal Year 2021.) For Fiscal

Year 2020, due to the impact of the exemplary Norwich VALE program, Safe Futures received funding from Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) to mirror the VALE program regionally. Continuation of the regional VALE program in Fiscal Year 2021 is unknown at this time).

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotlines – Available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.
- Lethality Assessment Program dedicated phone line for law enforcement – Available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.
- Emergency domestic violence shelter and case management services - Available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.
- Transitional Living Program, on-site, located in New London – Case Management services available 35 hours/week.
- Supportive Housing Program, scattered site, office located in Norwich – Case Management services available 35 hours/week.
- Supportive Housing Program, on-site, located in Norwich-Case Management services available 35 hours/week.
- Short-Term safe living program for victims on their journey to recovery from substance abuse, on-site, located in Norwich – Case Management services available +35 hours/week.
- Domestic Violence and Self-Esteem support groups located in Norwich and New London - 1 evening in Norwich and 1 evening in New London/week.

A3. Total number of persons employed

Total employees is forty-nine (49), with twenty-eight (28) full-time and twenty-one (21) part-time.

A4. Person responsible for compliance

Katherine Verano, Chief Executive Officer

A5. Federal Funding

In Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the total of Federal Funds Safe Futures received was \$590,699. This was below the Federal Single Audit threshold of \$750,000. It is currently uncertain whether Safe Futures will receive more than \$750,000 of Federal Funds in Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

B. STATEMENT OF NEED

B1. Need Statement

Domestic violence (DV) is a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship where one partner tries to control and dominate the other. Abuse can be physical, financial, sexual, or emotional. Victims are often isolated from outside resources and are intimidated by their abuser's threats to harm them or their children if they seek help, and continue to take the abuse because their lives, and often the lives of their children, depend upon it.

Research shows that economic dependency is the strongest predictor of a victim of DV returning to an abusive relationship, even if they know their safety is in jeopardy by doing so. As of November 2019, Connecticut has now recovered 85.5% of the jobs lost in the Great Recession (3/08-2/10). For December 2019 (latest statistics available), the United States unemployment rate was 3.4%; Connecticut, 3.2%;

Norwich-New London Area, 3.2 %; and the City of Norwich, 3.5%.¹ The latest United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained) report indicates that 30% of households in southeastern Connecticut earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the area, while in Norwich it is 53.7%.² Of the eight counties in CT, New London County has the second highest family violence offense rate per capita (for 2018: 1,018 per 100,000 pop.). Norwich ranks second highest of cities/towns having the highest family violence offense rate per capita in the state (for 2018: 2,204).³ In 2015, of the 8 intimate partner homicides in CT, 25% (2/8) were from New London County, with one being from Norwich.⁴ In 2016, of the 12 intimate partner homicides in CT, one occurred in Norwich as well.⁵ In 2018, of the 14 intimate partner homicides in CT, 25% (2/8) were from New London County.⁶ Also, for 2019, there were 13 intimate partner homicides in CT, with one occurring in New London County. As of February 2020, there has been 1 intimate partner homicide in Norwich. Further, through the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), area police officers assess a domestic violence victim at the scene to determine if they are at high risk of being murdered. If a victim is at high risk, they call a dedicated phone line at Safe Futures. The Norwich Police Department was one of the first to join the LAP in September 2012. Last year, of the 159 Lethality Screens administered by Norwich police, officers called in 71 that were of high risk of being murdered with immediately connecting 45 victims to Safe Futures at the time of the incidence.

Norwich residents comprise approximately 20% of those who receive services from Safe Futures each year, and the Norwich DV Response Team (NDVRT) was created in 2004 to provide services specifically in Norwich and the surrounding towns. The original NDVRT consisted of Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVAs) in the Norwich court, a Victim Advocate Law Enforcement (VALE) Advocate in the Norwich Police Department, weekly support groups at the Madonna Place, 24-hour hotlines, and a full-time walk-in Counseling office. In March 2019, Safe Futures acquired the Norwich-based Bethsaida Community, Inc. and their on-site programs Katie Blair House (KBH), a short-term safe living program for women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking on their journey to recovery from substance abuse, and Flora O'Neil Apartments (FON), permanent supportive housing. The addition of these programs further strengthens NDVRT with residential options.

In 2009, reduced funding forced Safe Futures to close the full-time Norwich walk-in Counseling office. As a result, Norwich residents had to travel to New London to receive services from Safe Futures, greatly reducing who had access to walk-in services. In September 2012, with support from Norwich CDBG, we were able to restore a part-time office within the Center for Mental Health at the William W. Backus Hospital. A crisis counselor worked there two days/week. Through collaborative efforts, and, by leveraging several resources along with Norwich CDBG, we were able to move the counselor to a full-time counseling office located at 241 Main Street, Norwich since April 2015.

In recent years, the VALE Program was primarily supported by fundraising dollars and a few private foundation grants. Unfortunately, for Fiscal Year 2016, the State of Connecticut restructured a grant we received for 20 years and we were no longer deemed eligible. To replace the lost of these state funds, we had to redirect fundraising dollars. As a result, this necessitated the suspension of the VALE Program in July

¹ Connecticut Department of Labor, <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/laus/lmi123.asp>

² United Way Alice Report-Connecticut, <http://bit.ly/ConnALICE>

³ Connecticut Family Violence 2018 Arrest Report, State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, published October 2019.

⁴ Upon Further Examination, 2015-2016 Findings & Recommendations, Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, www.ctcadv.org.

⁵ Upon Further Examination, 2017-2018 Report of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Task Force, www.ctcadv.org.

⁶ Connecticut Family Violence 2018 Homicide Report, State of Connecticut Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection, published June 2019.

2015. Fortunately, with the support of Norwich CDBG Re-Allocation funds, VALE services were reinstated in December 2015. Even after the CDBG Re-Allocation funds ended in 5/31/16, Safe Futures was able to continue VALE until the start of awarded funds from Norwich CDBG Program Year 42, 9/1/16, which also supported the crisis counselor at the Norwich office. We were also awarded funds from Norwich CDBG Program Year 43, beginning 9/1/17, Program Year 44, beginning 9/1/18, and Program Year 45, beginning 9/1/19 for both programs. With 357 victims referred to VALE in CDBG Program Year 44, the need continues.

B2. Uniqueness of services

Safe Futures is still the only agency in New London County that provides services exclusively for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking, and their families. There are no other agencies in the Norwich area that offer similar services, having certified Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates available at our walk-in office and at the Norwich Police Department to work alongside police officers when they are responding to domestic violence calls.

B3. Address Community Needs

During 2005-2006, when the FVVA, VALE Advocate, and Norwich walk-in Counseling office were all staffed full-time, Safe Futures served 1,992 Norwich residents, 36% of all individuals served at that time. During 2011-2012, with a full-time FVVA, a part-time VALE Advocate, and no Norwich Counseling office, only 1,568 individuals were served, 26% of individuals served at that time.

To address this disparity, a part-time office was opened in Norwich in September 2012 within Backus Hospital. During the summer of 2014, we engaged a volunteer to survey Norwich social service agencies to discover their level of awareness about our office. Surveyed agencies included: Madonna Place, Norwich Human Services (NHS), Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA), Southeastern Mental Health Authority (SMHA), Catholic Charities, Reliance House, and the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Representatives from these agencies saw us as an essential service and were pleased we were available in Norwich once again. However, they felt that it would be better for us to have a full-time office in downtown Norwich, so that they, and other social service agencies, could easily refer their clients to us within walking distance of their own offices to ensure clients received services quickly.

To address these needs, we leveraged several funding sources, including Norwich CDBG funding, to lease a new office space on Main Street in downtown Norwich, and began providing walk-in services five days/week in spring of 2015, which we have continued. Due to lack of funding, the VALE Program was not staffed from July 2015 to December 2015, even though there was a need. With the support of the City of Norwich, CDBG Re-Allocation funds, we were able to reinstate VALE services in December 2015. Although this funded ended 5/31/16, Safe Futures made a concerted effort to continue the program when we were notified we would be receiving City of Norwich, Program Year 42 CDBG funds, beginning 9/1/16, and were successful. Safe Futures also received Program Year 43 CDBG funds, beginning 9/1/17, Program Year 44 CDBG funds, beginning 9/1/18, and Program year 45 CDBG funds, beginning 9/1/19 for both the counseling office services and VALE. Hence, the VALE program in partnership with the Norwich Police Department has been available once again since December 2015.

B4. Waiting List

Safe Futures' programs strive to provide services at the moment victims seek support, and 24-hour hotlines, answered by a certified Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate, are available for the times when a staff member is not. Currently, walk-in services in Norwich are provided Mondays through Fridays from 9am to 5pm in our office in downtown Norwich. The VALE program certified Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate is available 1 day a week to work alongside Norwich police officers when they are responding to DV calls, providing immediate crisis intervention and advocacy to victims during an investigation, and for follow-up services.

C. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

C1. General Description

For Program Year 46, funding from Norwich CDBG is requested to partially support certified Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates positions in Norwich which provide services five days/week in our walk-in office and work with the Norwich Police through the VALE Program one day a week.

Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates provide immediate support and, when appropriate, crisis intervention services. The main objective of the Counseling program is to listen, assess the degree of danger, safety plan, and provide information and referrals that can best meet the victim's needs. Contrary to popular belief, getting a victim to leave an abusive situation is not always the best or safest choice. Abusers will often restrict access to finances, destroy the victim's rental and/or credit history, or prevent the victim from being employed, all of which make it incredibly hard for the victim to be able to provide for themselves and their children or obtain housing independently, putting the family at risk of homelessness and poverty.

Our certified Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates work with victims to make the best and safest decisions for themselves, and their children. Our office is conveniently located at 241 Main Street, Norwich, close to Madonna Place, Reliance House, Catholic Charities, Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Norwich court house, and Norwich Human Services. This location ensures that the maximum numbers of victims are not only aware of, but have easy access to our services, which include:

- Designing safety plans so that the victim can continue living with the abuser as safely as possible, until leaving is an option or escape is necessary;
- Support and assistance accessing emergency shelter and obtaining emergency transportation to flee a violent situation;
- One-on-one support helping victims, and when appropriate their children, understand the effects of domestic violence and help them cope with the emotional impact of the abuse;
- Providing in-person support and assistance at the emergency room;
- Access to our bilingual advocate or an interpreter through Language Line Translation to ensure that language and cultural differences do not act as barriers to service;
- Making referrals to additional programs for therapeutic counseling, mental/physical health, and coordination with community-based agencies for other specialized services;
- Assisting victims to understand the process of obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order or other legal documents to increase their safety; and
- Providing community donations of clothing, household goods, and personal care items.

Since Safe Futures' donation area is located in New London, the Norwich office allows for a collection of personal care items, duffel bags, clothing, and food to be easily accessible in case of an emergency -

enabling victims to leave as soon as they need to without worrying about taking the time to pack an extra set of clothes or personal care items for themselves and their children. It also provides a safe space to bring victims who need to be removed from a dangerous situation and begin safety planning for immediate relocation.

The VALE Program places a certified Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate in the Norwich Police Department to work alongside the designated Domestic Violence police officer, and other police officers when responding to domestic violence calls. The advocate is located at the police station, rides with the police, and is provided with a desk, phone, etc. With this unique partnership, the VALE Advocate provides immediate crisis intervention and advocacy to victims during a police investigation, acting as a liaison between law enforcement and victims so that victims can feel safe and learn to trust the police officers as a resource.

The VALE Advocate provides the following services:

- Immediate response to domestic incidents to ensure the safety of the victim and their children, and support to the police officers investigating the call;
- Safety planning for victims, including information on how to enhance their safety in their home and develop an understanding of domestic violence;
- Information and education about protective orders and assistance with protective order modification, as well as information about applying for civil restraining orders;
- Information on the law enforcement processes and education about the victim's rights;
- Escorted transportation of the victim to and from court;
- Assistance and one-on-one support to help the victim and their family at court, as they are often re-victimized during the court process; and
- Unannounced phone calls and follow up visits along with law enforcement, to ensure that the victim and children are safe, that their needs are being met, and that the offender is honoring restraining and protective orders.

The VALE Advocate acts as a vital link between victims and domestic violence services Safe Futures offer and other community agencies - a link that can prevent future fatalities and ensure that victims are able to access the resources they need to live better, safer lives, free from violence.

C1a. Alignment with 5-year Consolidated Plan (see www.norwichct.org)

Safe Futures was consulted with and participated in development of sections of the City of Norwich Five-Year 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan regarding special needs populations, as victims of domestic violence are defined as. According to the plan, 59 of the assessed homeless and/or sheltered in the Norwich area were as a result of domestic violence issues. Further, the plan recognizes domestic violence victims need access to safe, affordable housing opportunities with strong case management. Norwich is invested to provide supportive services to domestic violence victims by addressing this issue at the time of the incident, providing support services during the criminal and civil court cases, and providing crisis intervention, including access to a 24-hour hotline and temporary safe confidential housing.⁷ Safe Futures NVRDT assists the city in accomplishing this goal.

C1b. Collaboration with other programs and organizations

⁷ 2015-2019 Norwich Consolidated Plan, www.norwichct.org.

To provide services in Norwich, Safe Futures actively collaborates with a number of programs and organizations. The NDVRT was created through partnerships with the Norwich court, Norwich Police Department, and the William W. Backus Hospital. The FVVAs and CFVVAs utilize space in the Norwich court and the VALE Advocate utilizes space in the Norwich Police Department. For PY 46, Safe Futures will continue offering services at our walk-in office and a Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate will continue working with the Norwich Police Department, with the advocate located at the police station and working alongside the police. The Norwich Police Department is dedicated to providing services to DV victims, but does not have the resources to provide advocacy, as the VALE Advocate does. The Norwich Police fully supports the continuation of the VALE Program and Advocate position, as indicated by the attached support letter (Exhibit 10) and of the willingness to speak at the Public Hearings in support of the project each year.

Safe Futures' weekly domestic violence support group sessions are currently held in the offices of Madonna Place in Norwich.

Since December 2011, Safe Futures has collaborated with Covenant Shelter, Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, Thames Valley Council for Community Action, and Southeastern Mental Health Authority to provide a Coordinated Access system (CAN) for homeless families in southeastern Connecticut, meeting weekly. Under this system, homeless families make one point of entry call and the collaborating agencies work together to find the family shelter. This system is deemed a best practice by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2013, the program was expanded to include New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Norwich Human Services, Reliance House and St. Vincent DePaul Place to provide CAN for individuals, as well. And, in fall 2018, to more effectively serve homeless individuals and families, the Southeastern CAN and the Northeastern CAN merged, combining resources area served, to form the Eastern CAN. The Chief Executive Officer of Safe Futures is part of the CAN Steering Committee that meets at least monthly and other Staff Futures staff attend the weekly CAN meetings.

C1c. Links with local or regional plans

The Department of Housing and Urban Development considers all victims of domestic violence as low or very-low income, and in New London County for the 2019 CT Point-in Time Count, 31% of homeless individuals reported being homeless because they were fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking.⁸ Therefore, Safe Futures staff are actively involved in local, regional, and statewide efforts to end homelessness and are members of the following groups:

- Eastern Connecticut Partnership to End Homelessness, Coordinated Access Network-*Steering Committee, Community Care Team, Family Community Care Team*
- CT BOS Steering Committee-statewide initiative to integrate domestic violence and homeless systems
- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

C1d. Partnerships

In 2004, Safe Futures created a domestic violence team in partnership with the Norwich Police Department

⁸Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, CT Point-in-Time Count 2019 Norwich-New London Summary, <https://cceh.org/data/interactive/2018pitdashboard/>.

as part of VALE. Full funding of our request from PY 46 will allow our partnership with the Norwich Police Department to continue (and to support a crisis counselor in our Norwich Office). The Norwich Police see the value of the partnership as evidenced through consulting with Safe Futures on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking issues, acknowledgement of VALE being a bridge between a victim and police since so many victims are not comfortable with reporting their abuse to police, working as a team with the advocate to deliver trauma-informed services, and providing an office space for the advocate.

C1e. New program or service?

Funding is requested to support certified Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates positions, 5 days/week at our Norwich Office and 1 day a week at the Norwich Police Station through VALE. The Norwich Crisis Counselor position was created in part with Norwich CDBG funding obtained in PY 38, and sustained in PY39, PY40, PY41, PY 42, PY 43, PY 44, and PY 45. CDBG funding in Program Year 36 was used to restore the weekly Norwich support group, and funding in Program Year 37 enabled Safe Futures to maintain the VALE Advocate position and expand it from 18 hours/week to 21 hours/week. Until July 2015, Safe Futures sustained the VALE Program through other grants and fundraising dollars. Funding from Program Year 41 Re-Allocation (and other Safe Futures generated grants and fundraising dollars) allowed us to restore the VALE Program, with an advocate position for 14 hours/week. Funding from PY 42, PY 43, PY 44, and now PY 45 has allowed us to continue the VALE Program. Although, now at only one day a week due to reduced funding from other sources.

C2. Activity or Service Information

C2a. Location of services

C2b. Frequency of services

C2c. Hours of operation

If we receive full CDBG funding (along with other needed funding), Counseling & Advocacy walk-in services will be provided Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm at our office at 241 Main Street, 9/1/20-8/31/21. The VALE Advocate will be located with the Norwich Police Domestic Violence unit at the Norwich Police Department, 70 Thames Street, Norwich. The advocate will be available 1 day a week from 9/1/20-8/31/21. As the police receive DV related calls 24/7, the advocate will be flexible to work some evening hours so they will be available at different times. Additional support and crisis intervention services are available through Safe Futures 24-hour hotlines.

C2d. Anticipated number to be served from Norwich

During PY 46, it is anticipated that 75 individuals, 50 of them Norwich residents, will be served through the walk-in office. We anticipate with the VALE Advocate available for one day a week, approximately 400 individuals, 350 of them Norwich residents, will be served through the program.

C2e. Hours of Operation

See answer to C2a/b/c.

C3. Percentage of requested grant funds for administration and salaries and Total number of employees hired and/or retained as a result

The requested funds will be used to retain 1.2 FTE Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates in Norwich.

No CDBG funds will be used for administrative salaries.

C4. Outcomes Theory of Change

When a victim of domestic violence can meet with a Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate, in-person, and work on a safety plan, receive basic needs, referrals for community-based services, and discuss how domestic violence has personally affected their own life, they feel safer, know where to turn for resources, and can preserve their safety in the future.

Inputs:

One certified Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate available Monday through Friday; office space at 241 Main Street; safety planning and education materials and Safe Futures' pamphlets; referral information and forms; personal care items to be given to clients; phone, computer and other office supplies including surveys.

One certified Domestic Violence Vale Advocate available one day a week; office space at Norwich Police Department, 70 Thames Street; safety planning and education materials and Safe Futures' pamphlets; referral information and forms; basic need items to be given to clients; phone, computer and other office supplies including surveys.

Outputs:

75 victims will come to the Norwich office to receive services and 50 will be Norwich residents.

400 victims of DV, 350 being Norwich residents, will receive VALE Program services.

Activities:

Walk-in crisis intervention and counseling services in our office at 241 Main Street in Norwich Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; safety planning; assessment; psycho-educational support and counseling about the effects of domestic violence on the victim and children; coordination of transportation to safe shelter when necessary; assistance understanding application process for a Temporary Restraining Order; Bi-Lingual services and access to Language Line Translation services; referrals to community resources or other Safe Futures programs; coordination of services with VALE, FVVAs and CFVVAs; provision of 911 emergency cell phones; and provision of donated clothing, household, and personal care items as needed.

Work alongside Norwich police officers when responding to domestic violence calls providing immediate crisis intervention and advocacy one day a week, flexible hours; safety planning; assessment; psycho-educational support and counseling about the effects of domestic violence on the victim and children; coordination of transportation to safe shelter when necessary; assistance understanding application process for a Temporary Restraining Order; Protective Order checks; Bi-Lingual services and access to Language Line Translation services; referrals to community resources or other Safe Futures programs; coordination of services with Crisis Counselors, FVVAs and CFVVAs; provision of 911 emergency cell phones; and provision of donated clothing, household, and personal care items as needed.

Outcomes: The outcomes we measure are the industry standard used by domestic violence programs nationwide. They include: increase knowledge of how to enhance one's safety; increase knowledge about domestic violence; and, increase knowledge of community resources. Surveys are utilized to gather information and victims are asked to answer each question either "Yes" or "No". Since these surveys are submitted

anonymously, we cannot separate surveys received from Norwich residents from those who are not Norwich residents. We have data on the population served through the Norwich office and VALE and will project these results to the Norwich residents.

By providing the opportunity for Norwich residents to meet in-person with Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates, we expect to improve the safety and quality of life for these underserved residents. The following illustrates how we collaborate with the Norwich Police for the Victim Advocate Law Enforcement (VALE) program.

Recently, the VALE advocate was in the community with a Norwich police officer when they responded to a domestic violence incidence reported by another social service provider. The victim was so badly assaulted by her partner she went to the emergency room for treatment saying she had fell. The VALE Advocate and police officer conducted a Lethality Assessment with the victim who screened in at high risk of being murdered. A safety plan was conducted that included the victim and her children going to stay with her family immediately.

The VALE advocate connected the victim with Safe Futures CFVVA to assist the victim with an Ex Parte Restraining Order, which was granted. Afterwards, the Vale advocate met with the victim at the police station to provide the victim with an emergency 911 phone and conduct an emergency shelter intake. Due to safety reasons, the victim and her children went to an emergency domestic violence shelter out of the area.

The next day, two police officers, a K9 Unit, the VALE advocate, and a state marshal accompanied the victim to her residence while she collected some belongings to take to shelter. The Ex Parte was going to be served, along with an outstanding warrant, if the abuser was home. The abuser was not at the residence. The police department completed a second warrant for assault in the second degree, which was signed by a judge. The VALE advocate has been following up with the police department and the victim to see if the abuser has been located, which he has not been so far. The victim is receiving counseling and safety planning through Safe Futures advocates and the shelter advocates where she is staying

E. FUNDING QUESTIONS

E1. Amount and source of leveraged funding

The requested funding of \$15,000 will be combined with \$5,000 from the United Way and any funding received from the following sources for 2020-2021: \$8,000 from the R.S. Gernon Trust (to be applied for), \$15,000 from the Edward and Mary Lord Foundation (to be applied for), and \$5,000 from Nordson Corporation Foundation (to be applied for). In addition, Safe Futures has committed to contribute \$9,500 from general fundraising.

E2. If you do not receive the amount of funds requested from CDBG, how do you propose to administer and/or complete the project in the manner presented and how will this affect your service population?

If the requested funds from CDBG are not received, we will have to reassess our ability to fully staff the Norwich office five days/week and partner with the Norwich police on the VALE program with Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates for the 2020-2021 year. Our goal is to increase the accessibility of DV services to Norwich residents, and without full CDBG funding; our ability to accomplish that may be limited.

E3. What items would you reduce/eliminate from your budget if the City wanted to (only) partially fund

your application?

We are requesting funding to partially support the cost of Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates salaries, so a reduction in funding would likely reduce the number of hours we can provide these services for Norwich residents in 2020-2021. Depending on the level of funding we may have to again suspend the VALE program all together.

F. OTHER

F1. List other agencies that provide similar services and identify those with which you collaborate. If services are similar, please elaborate on what makes this service unique.

Safe Futures is the only agency exclusively providing services, support, and housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in New London County. The VALE program is unique as it places a certified DV Counselor/Advocate in the Norwich Police Department to work alongside police officers when responding to domestic violence calls. Other Norwich agencies that provide complementary but not similar services, and with whom Safe Futures collaborates include:

- Reliance House
- Backus Hospital
- State of CT Dept. of Children and Families
- Prosecutors, Investigators, Family Relations Office, and Probation Officers in the Norwich Court system
- Connecticut Legal Services
- United Community and Family Services
- Child and Family Agency
- Norwich Police Department
- Madonna Place
- SMHA
- NHS
- TVCCA
- Thames River Family Program
- DSS
- Generations Health Services
- Catholic Charities

F2. Is your request for continuation of a previously-funded CDBG program?

F2a. If yes, please state the reason(s) why.

Safe Futures has received funding from PY38, PY39, PY40, PY41, PY42, PY43, PY 44, and PY 45 to expand and support the hours of the Norwich Crisis Counselor in the NDVRT. We received funding from PY41 (Re-allocation) to restore the VALE Advocate hours and PY42, PY43, PY 44, and PY 45 to maintain the program. Funding is requested now to continue the NDVRT, specifically the Crisis Counselor and VALE Advocate.

Safe Futures receives funding from Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) (through state and federal funding) to partially support programs. Other Funding includes allocations from United Way, individual contributions, and grant funding (from federal, state, private foundations and others), none of which are guaranteed year after year. See answer to E1. for specific amounts.

F2b. If no, please state the reason(s) why.

Not applicable.

G. SECTION 3 REQUIREMENTS (Please See Sample on Page 16)

Not applicable. *Please see Exhibit 9.*

ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Does your program:

- Address the needs of low- and/or moderate-income residents (see income chart below)? AND/OR
- Serve seniors; severely disabled adults; homeless; battered spouses; abused/neglected children and youth; illiterate adults; migrant farm workers, persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons who use food banks or meals programs.

PROGRAM BENEFICIARY OUTCOME STATISTICS:

Attach additional sheets for every outcome related to the funded program

Please see Exhibit 8

STAFFING RESOURCES: Identify every person involved in the implementation and administration of the program. Use the chart below and additional sheets if necessary. Please refer to page 15 regarding Section 3 to determine if you are or will be a Section 3 concern. If you are/will meet Section 3 criteria, it will be mandatory for you to complete the attached Section 3 documentation.

Position/Title	Salary Range	CDBG Portion of Salary	Full-time or Part-time?	Hired As a Result of Funding (Y/N)
Executive Director	\$90,000-\$105,000	0%	Full-time	N
Director of Finance and Administration	\$58,000-\$73,000	0%	Full-time	N
Director of Grants and Compliance	\$58,000-\$73,000	0%	Full-time	N
Associate Director of Court Services & VALE	\$40,000-\$55,000	0%	Full-time	N
Domestic Violence Counselors/Advocates	\$16.00-\$26.00/hr.	Varies	1.2 FTE's	Y (to continue expansion)

PART III: BUDGET INFORMATION**A. AGENCY FINANCIAL DATA**

SUPPORT & REVENUE	CURRENT	ANTICIPATED
	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Program fees	\$52,750	\$52,750
Other Grants including foundations	\$239,000	\$239,000
Fundraising (Donations)	\$507,744	\$707,744
CDBG	\$15,000	\$15,000
General Fund	0	0
State & Federal Grants	\$1,358,544	\$1,383,044
Other Revenue:		
Local gov't grants, contracts & fees	\$55,000	\$55,000
United Way	\$182,064	\$182,064
Interest, Dividends & Misc. Income	\$23,000	\$23,000
Sponsorships & Special events	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,438,102	\$2,662,602
EXPENSES	CURRENT	ANTICIPATED
	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Salaries	\$1,403,044	\$1,580,913
Employee Benefits	\$176,651	\$199,774
Payroll Taxes	\$123,651	\$139,659
Professional Fees & Services	\$80,400	\$80,400
Operations / Phones /Postage	\$128,797	\$128,797
Insurance (other)	\$28,427	\$28,427
Equipment Rental & Maintenance, Acquisition	\$154,050	\$161,550
Printing & Publication	\$7,000	\$7,000
Travel / Conferences/Conventions	\$36,000	\$36,000
Legal Fees	\$12,000	\$12,000
Other expenses:		
Client assistance	\$131,682	\$131,682
Depreciation	\$140,000	\$140,000
Dues, Staff development, bank charges, advertising, bad debt	\$16,400	\$16,400
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,438,102	\$2,662,602
BALANCE (total revenue less expense)	\$0	\$0

B. PROGRAM SPECIFIC FINANCIAL DATA (PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS CHANGED)

SUPPORT & REVENUE	CDBG FUNDED PORTION	NON-CDBG FUNDED PORTION	% OF CDBG FUNDS USED FOR PROGRAM
Program Fees	-	-	-
Other grants/foundations (non-government)	-	\$36,000	
Donations	-	\$9,500	
CDBG	\$15,000	-	100%
General Fund	-	-	-
State Government	-	\$10,000	-
Federal Government	-	-	-
Other Revenue–United Way	-	\$5,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,000	\$60,500	100%
EXPENSES	CDBG FUNDED PORTION	NON-CDBG FUNDED PORTION	% OF CDBG FUNDS USED FOR PROGRAM
Salaries	\$12,000	\$38,500	21%
Employee Benefits	\$850	\$3,200	21%
Payroll Taxes	\$1,200	\$4,000	23%
Professional Services (including accounts and attorneys)	\$250	\$600	29%
General Operations & Supplies (incl. Overhead and Printing)	\$700	\$13,500	5%
Travel / Conferences		\$500	0%
Vehicle Expense	-	-	-
Other –Client assistance	-	\$200	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,000	\$60,500	25%
BALANCE (Total revenue less expenses)	\$0	\$0	\$0