

**Survivors of Domestic Violence Assistance Program**

Statement of Need:

Domestic violence represents a significant public health and social justice problem that disproportionately affects women and children. Based on CDC figures, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44, more than rapes, muggings, and car accidents combined. The CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicates that one in three women and one in six men have been raped, beaten, and/or stalked by an intimate partner.

Since we opened our Amesbury office in 1998, the highest percentage of survivors we serve come from Amesbury. Last year, JGCC provided 10,712 services to 1,032 adults and 301 children. In Amesbury, we provided 1,813 services to 163 adult and 31 child victims of domestic violence. 59% have an annual income of less than \$20,000. Additionally, we provided \$10,200 in financial assistance and rental assistance.

<b>Jeanne Geiger</b> CRISIS CENTER	<b>Amesbury Residents</b>	<b>Annual Totals</b>
	<b>Survivors</b>	
All Survivors	<b>194</b>	1,333
Adults	<b>163</b>	1,032
Children	<b>31</b>	301
	<b>Services</b>	
All Services	<b>1,813</b>	10,712
Advocacy	<b>1,113</b>	5,367
Clinical	<b>509</b>	3,870
Legal	<b>191</b>	1,475
Financial Assistance	<b>\$10,200</b>	\$36,763

Organization and How We Meet the Local Needs:

The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (JGCC) is to empower individuals and engage communities to end domestic violence. Since 1982, we have refined a family-centered approach to addressing the complex issue of domestic violence. Our evidence-based strategies allow us to work with the whole family unit defined as the non-abusive adult caregiver and their children. The foundation of all our programs is our comprehensive collection of community-based services, which includes advocacy and support, therapeutic services, and legal services. We believe that an integrated and holistic approach that tackles this complex problem from multiple angles simultaneously leads to successful outcomes for the survivors.

These core services address the basic safety and empowerment needs that must be met before survivors can realistically undertake the difficult but transformative work of transitioning

themselves and their children into a new life. Only when the adult survivor attains a sense of security and relative equilibrium, is she fully able to envision the possibility of life beyond domestic violence for herself and her children. Once the basic and essential needs have been met such as safe housing, food, transportation, and any pending legal issues have been resolved, survivors are able to take advantage of other specialized therapeutic support that we offer for both adult and child survivors.

By providing free, comprehensive services for survivors of domestic violence we are able to 1) provide real options to living in abusive relationships; 2) increase the safety for victims; 3) work with the law enforcement and the courts to hold abusers accountable for the abuse; 4) assist women to stay in their own homes and prevent homelessness; 5) help children process the trauma related to domestic violence; 6) our services enable children to arrive in their classrooms ready to learn.

#### Beneficiaries of Program:

As stated above, for the past 20 years, since we opened our Amesbury office, the highest percentage of survivors we help reside in Amesbury. Adult and child survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking will be helped with these funds. Most of the Amesbury survivors are low income and a small subset fall into the 60+ years category as well.

#### Program Operations:

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center knows that when someone is fleeing domestic violence, that there are so many other interrelated issues present: if she leaves, she may lose a place to live, her children may miss their dad, she may not have had a job for a while or didn't finish school because the abuser wanted her home. Many times, the abuser may be the one watching the children and now she is without that help as well. Not to mention the financial help toward running the household.

We have designed our services to meet the variety of needs of a survivor whether it is crisis intervention work, stabilization work, or the longer-term work of healing and recovery. Survivors typically come to us in one of three ways: through a hotline call, a court appearance seeking help with a restraining order, or walking through our doors. We conduct a thorough intake and assessment to insure we understand the needs, strengths, and obstacles faced by the survivor and work with her to prioritize her needs. Facilitated by our staff and a robust team of dedicated volunteers, these services provide survivors of domestic violence with essential services.

Current Programs: Advocacy, therapeutic, legal, and prevention programs provide an integrated web of support as survivors needs shift from crisis to independence, which may take weeks, months, or many years. We help survivors move from crisis to stabilization to independent living. Coordination with law enforcement and other partners such as the Pettengill House, Our Neighbor's Table, and Elder Services, schools, hospitals, and other community partners provides support for the victim/survivor and their family as their needs change over time. These

relationships are critical as on average, an individual will leave an abusive relationship seven times before they finally leave for good.

Advocacy and Support: Interventions to help survivors understand what they have experienced and provide them with the tools to move forward. Provides access to basic needs such as housing, food, transportation, and support. Therapeutic Services: provides survivors and their families with a wider range of evidence based and proven therapies that specifically enable them to heal from the trauma. Legal Services provided by our on-staff attorney, legal advocates, and a lawyer referral panel protect, empower and assist survivors with a variety of legal matters such as divorce, custody, visitation, child support, housing and immigration.

Budget: Our proposed budget is \$45,000, with \$41,000 to cover our advocacy, legal and clinical services for Amesbury residents who are survivors of domestic abuse and \$4,000 in financial assistance for unmet financial needs of those survivors.

Our FY19 budget for the survivor services program across the organization is \$1.4 million. We expect to provide over 11,000 services in FY19, for a per service cost of \$126.01. Our Amesbury-based team consists of 11 staff who serve survivors from Amesbury and surrounding communities. These staff members bring their expertise as adult, child and art therapists, advocates, and lawyers to provide a team-based approach and comprehensive services to the survivors we serve.

These services are supported in large part by our federal and state government contracts. The funders and the revenue associated with the activities of our Amesbury location are:

<b>Government Agency</b>	<b>Amesbury Office Funding (FY19)</b>
Mass. Office of Victim Assistance- Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	352,321
Mass. Department of Public Health – Community Based Services	236,167
Mass. Department of Public Health – Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (CEDV)	96,634
US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) – Transitional Housing	54,512
	739,634

The total revenue supporting our Amesbury office from government contracts constitutes 82% of the estimated costs of personnel and operating expenses at that location (\$903,820). Applying the 18% of costs which aren't funded to the \$126.01 cost per service results in a gap of \$22.68 per service provided.

### Budget for Services Provided to Amesbury Survivors

Type of Service	Estimated # of Services	Share @ \$22.68/service
Advocacy	1,115	\$ 25,288
Clinical	511	\$ 11,589
Legal	193	\$ 4,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>\$ 41,254</b>

Financial Assistance: JGCC has funding from the OVW Transitional Housing Program and from the Department of Public Health to pay for client out-of-pocket expenses for transitional housing for eligible survivors, and more limited funds for various other expenses. Our clients' needs exceed these sources, and often extend to housing-related expenses (like utilities), car expenses, and emergency funds. We work with clients to verify the need and we pay the selected vendors directly. The budgeted \$4000 will enable us to help 4-8 clients cover their basic needs, as we continue to work with them to move toward economic self-sufficiency.