

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Organization's Name: Steps to End Domestic Violence

Address: PO Box 1535

City, State, Zip: Burlington, VT 05402

Website address: www.stepsvt.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Program Name: Steps to End Domestic Violence

2. Contact Person/Title: Dawn Ferringo, Executive Director

Telephone Number: 802-658-3131, extension 1062

E-mail address: dawnf@stepsvt.org

3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program:

3,862

4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 13 Adults and 1 Child

Please, attach any documentation that supports this number.

Percent of people served who are Town residents: 1%

5. Amount of Request: \$1200

6. Total Program Budget: \$121,633

Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond: 1%

7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency: See Attached

8. Funding will be used to: Maintain an existing program

9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program? Yes

If yes, please answer the following:

a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? No. We're requesting level funding from our last allocation.

b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard? No

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need or problem exist in the Town of Richmond?

Domestic abuse is a pattern of assaultive or coercive behaviors that someone uses to gain and maintain power and control over another person, specifically an intimate partner or family member. During their lifetime, one in four women and one in seven men in the United States will experience domestic abuse, and every year, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. Yet, domestic abuse is among the most underreported crimes in the United States. Fear, guilt, and shame often prevent a survivor from reporting abuse to friends, family or authority figures. Domestic abuse forces survivors to live in fear and in silence. Only 20% of survivors apply for and obtain orders of protection against their abusers. Of the protection orders granted, 50% are violated by the abuser at least once. Nationwide, an average of three women are killed by their abusers every day, which underscores how difficult it is to keep victims of domestic abuse safe. In addition to the direct support we provide to survivors, we continue to develop our strong presence and relationship with the Richmond community. This school year our Education and Prevention Coordinator will provide workshops on the topics of Healthy Relationships & Sexuality, Teen Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, and Bystander Intervention for Mount Mansfield Union High School staff and students

2. Program Summary:

a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence.

We serve anyone in Chittenden County who has experienced intimate partner or dating violence, regardless of race, age, ethnicity, gender identity, or economic status. We expect to serve an estimated 15 Richmond residents next year, taking the average of the past four years of data. We also expect that an estimated 58 Richmond residents who wish to remain anonymous will be served next year, taking the average of the past four years of anonymous individuals served. There are no eligibility requirements other than having experienced intimate partner violence.

b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive?

The desired outcome for survivors participating in our program is that they feel empowered to make their own choices, increase their safety, and are able to live independent lives free from the control of an abuser. There are many detrimental effects on a person's emotional, psychological, financial, and physical health when experiencing domestic violence, or are exposed to domestic violence in the home, as is the case for so many children. Participation in our programs allows survivors and their children to address these impacts and rebuild their lives. We communicate with the public through Twitter, Facebook, monthly newsletters, LinkedIn, Google, YouTube, Instagram, and our website. We are also present in every high school and college in Chittenden County.

3. Program Funding:

a. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service).

Town funds awarded by the Town of Richmond would be used to support our 24-hour Crisis Hotline. The Hotline is a free and confidential support line that is available to survivors, as well as children and youth experiencing dating violence of living in a home with domestic violence. The Hotline is also available to friends and family of those experiencing domestic violence, community service providers, law enforcement, health care providers, etc. for support, information, and referrals. In FY19 the Hotline fielded 3,862 calls, with an average of 55.5 new callers reaching out for the first time every month. The average cost per Hotline call in FY19 was \$29.94. The Town of Richmond's generous allocation of \$1,200 would help us provide support to 40 calls.

b. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost?

We are proposing that each town within Chittenden County allocate \$.25 per resident to help Steps to End Domestic Violence provide this much needed resource to all community members. The total amount of Town Funding requests equal \$42,190, which is equal to 3% of our total operating budget.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise.

Steps to End Domestic Violence has been providing services to survivors of domestic abuse since 1974. All direct service staff complete a 20-hour training before they begin working with survivors, which provides them with Crisis Worker Privilege. Additionally, staff receive extensive training on trauma-informed services, cultural competency, co-occurring disorders, DV's effect on children and many other important topics. The agency is comprised of 19 FTE staff providing services and administrative support at various locations. The agency is governed by a board of directors, currently consisting of ten members, and the day-to-day operations are governed by the Executive Director, Dawn Ferringo.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

Steps to End Domestic Violence uses the nationally recognized Family Violence Prevention and Services Act outcome questions to measure the effectiveness of the Hotline program. When appropriate (i.e., not during a crisis call), the survey questions are asked of the caller after the hotline call and the response are tracked in our electronic database, Osnium. The Survey is comprised of these three questions, Do you know more ways to plan for your safety? Do you know more about community resources? Do you know more about your rights and options?

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

Per Josh Arneson, our data is forth coming.

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place? Yes


- If yes, please attach your plan.

The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors?

The Board of Directors of Steps to End Domestic Violence shall consist of not less than five (5) members. Currently there are 10 board members. There were 9 regular meeting and 2 special meetings in FY2019

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant  Date 10/4/19
Dawn Ferringo, Executive Director Print Name of Applicant and Title