The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) domestic violence program provides significant state and federal funding dedicated to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. In state fiscal year 2016, DSHS disbursed $10,357,486 to 43 emergency domestic violence shelters across the state of Washington, 52 percent of which was from state funds. Local domestic violence programs served 25,120 victims of domestic violence and their children in 2016, 5,957 of whom received emergency shelter. 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.

In SFY 2016, there were unmet requests for domestic violence emergency shelter from eligible individuals, an 8% increase over the previous year.

“I never thought I’d make it this far, but yet here I am. When you welcomed me with open arms, open minds and empathetic compassion, I finally felt safe. You all supported me mentally, emotionally and spiritually... when I was ready to collapse and... held my hand throughout it all. Thank you.”

— Survivor

Questions should be directed to the DSHS Program Manager at (360) 902-8493

Information about individual agencies can be obtained from: www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/domestic-violence/
Shelter and Supportive Services  Local domestic violence programs provide emergency domestic violence shelter to victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. In addition to shelter, residents receive supportive services such as advocacy, legal assistance, access to support groups, and other specialized services based on each person’s unique needs. The majority of service recipients, however, receive non-shelter based services such as advocacy, assistance with protection orders and other legal issues, and access to support groups. In 2016, the 43 domestic violence shelter programs provided 222,785 shelter bed nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 36 days in 2016.

Meeting Survivors’ Needs

Beginning in July 2008, survivors receiving services at domestic violence programs funded by DSHS had the opportunity to provide confidential feedback on the services they received. In response to two questions answered by 5,862 survivors in 2016:

5,505 (94%) responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more ways to plan for their safety

5,415 (92%) responded that as a result of receiving services, they know more about community resources

These outcomes are consistent with the findings from two national multi-state studies that documented the experiences of survivors that received emergency shelter\(^1\) and non-shelter based services\(^2\) from domestic violence programs.


Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-562-6025

(Voice and TTY)