



To End Domestic Violence

ORIGINAL

Carson City
Grants Program Application
Fiscal Year 2013–2014

An electronic version of this document is available at carson.org/cdbg

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE*: **JANUARY 18, 2013, 4:00 P.M.**

PLEASE SUBMIT 2 COPIES TO: **CARSON CITY PLANNING DIVISION**
108 E. PROCTOR ST.
CARSON CITY, NV 89701

*The deadline established is **firm**. Any proposal received **after** the deadline **will not** be considered for funding. **Applications must be unstapled. See attached instructions pg 15.**

GRANT APPLYING FOR: (check all that apply)

☐ **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

☒ **Community Support Services Grant (CSSG)**

Total funding requested:

\$9,000

1. **Agency Name:** Advocates to End Domestic Violence
2. **Agency Mailing Address:** Post Office Box 2529, Carson City, Nevada 89702
3. **Project/Program Name:** Emergency Shelter
4. **Project/Program Address/location:** 32 Sierra Ave. Carson City, Nevada
5. **Agency Director:** Lisa Lee
6. **Board Chairperson:** Candy Duncan
7. **Contact person:** Lisa Lee, Executive Director
Phone number: 883-7654 E-Mail: carsonadvocates@aol.com
Fax: 883-0364 Website (if applicable) www.aedv.org

8. **How long has your organization been in existence? since 1979 In Carson City? 34 years**
Advocates To End Domestic Violence was funded in 1979 and incorporated in 1981.

9. **What is the overall mission of your organization?**

At Advocates to End Domestic Violence, we believe in the worth, dignity, and uniqueness of individuals, their ability and responsibility to affect change in their lives, and the right to live free of violence. The purpose of Advocates to End Domestic Violence is to provide **prevention, crisis intervention, and support services** to victims of domestic violence to aid them and their families in breaking the cycle of violence in their lives and move toward self-sufficiency.

10. **Type of funding requested (CDBG ONLY) (Check One):**

☐ Public Service	☐ Public Facility/Improvement
☐ Economic Development	☐ Housing

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Please provide a short description of your project/program (not your organization).

Requested CSSG funds will be combined with other raised and donated resources and put toward the operation of the **51 emergency bed shelters** for victims of domestic violence and their children. The emergency shelter is the cornerstone of Advocates to End Domestic Violence, hereafter referred to as AEDV, which provides prevention, intervention, direct services, and support to aid victims in crisis. Our program targets “socially disadvantaged and/or economically needy families” who are at-risk or in crisis as a result of family violence. Without the opportunity of shelter, many victims would be forced to either remain in an abusive relationship or become **homeless**, moving from family to friends, or sleeping in their cars and exposing themselves and their children to dangerous environments. The shelter provides victims with protection and support services, as well as the opportunity to develop life skills needed to regain independence and work toward self-sufficiency.

I. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

A. Check all statements that describe HOW this project/program meets one of Carson City’s goals:

- ☒ X A Safe and Secure Community
- ☒ X A Healthy Community
- ☐ An Active and Engaged Community
- ☐ A Clean and Healthy Environment
- ☐ A Vibrant, Diverse and Sustainable Economy
- ☐ A Community Rich in History, Culture and the Arts
- ☐ A Community Dedicated to Excellence in Education
- ☐ A Physically and Socially Connected Community
- ☐ A Community Where Information is Available to All

B. For CDBG ONLY. This project/program meets at least ONE of the HUD national objectives listed below (please check all that apply)

- ☐ 1. Benefits low/moderate income individuals/households
- ☐ 2. Addresses the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- ☐ 3. Meets a particularly urgent community development need

C. For CDBG ONLY. Check all statements that describe HOW this project/program meets one of the National Objectives above:

☐ **L/M Area Benefit:** the project meets the identified needs of L/M income persons residing in an area where at least 51% of those residents are L/M income persons. The benefits of this type of activity are available to all persons in the area regardless of income. **Examples:** street improvements, water/sewer lines, neighborhood facilities, façade improvements in neighborhood commercial districts.

☐ **L/M Limited Clientele:** the project benefits a specific group of people (rather than all the residents in a particular area), at least 51% of whom are L/M income persons. The following groups are presumed to be L/M: abused children, elderly

persons, battered spouses, homeless, handicapped, illiterate persons. **Examples:** construction of a senior center, public services for the homeless, meals on wheels for elderly, construction of job training facilities for the handicapped.

_____ **L/M Housing:** the project adds or improves permanent residential structures that will be occupied by L/M income households upon completion. Housing can be either owner or renter occupied units in either one family or multi-family structures. Rental units for L/M income persons must be occupied at affordable rents. **Examples:** acquisition of property for permanent housing, rehabilitation of permanent housing, conversion of non-residential structures into permanent housing.

_____ **L/M Jobs:** the project creates or retains permanent jobs, at least 51% of which are taken by L/M income persons or considered to be available to L/M income persons. **Examples:** loans to pay for the expansion of a factory, assistance to a business which has publicly announced its intention to close with resultant loss of jobs, a majority of which are held by L/M persons.

_____ **Microenterprise Assistance:** the project assists in the establishment of a microenterprise or assists persons developing a microenterprise. (A microenterprise is defined as having five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the business.) This activity must benefit low/moderate income persons, area or jobs as defined in previous sections.

_____ **Slum or Blighted Area:** the project is in a designated slum/blight area and the result of this project addresses one or more of the conditions that qualified the area.

_____ **Spot Blight:** the project will prevent or eliminate specific conditions of blight or physical decay outside a slum area. Activities are limited to clearance, historic preservation, rehabilitation of buildings, but only to the extent necessary to eliminate conditions detrimental to public health and safety. **Examples:** historic preservation of a public facility threatening public safety, demolition of a deteriorated, abandoned building.

C. Project/Program Category CDBG ONLY (check one):

- _____ Public Service (i.e., a new service or an **increase** in the level of service
- _____ Public Facilities and Improvements (i.e., homeless shelter, water and sewer facilities, flood and drainage improvements, fire protection facilities/equipment, community, senior and health centers, parking, streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks, parks and playgrounds).
- _____ Acquisition of Real Property
- _____ Disposition of Real Property (sale, lease or donation)
- _____ Privately-Owned Utilities
- _____ Relocation Payments and Assistance to Displaced Persons
- _____ Removal of Architectural Barriers, Handicapped Accessibility
- _____ Housing Rehabilitation
- _____ Historic Preservation
- _____ Commercial or Industrial Rehabilitation, including façade improvements and correction of code violations
- _____ Special Economic Development or assistance to microenterprises

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Five-year Consolidated Plan identifies priority community development needs for Carson City (see Appendix II). The need for your proposed project will be determined by identifying how the project impacts upon the adopted Consolidated Plan Priority Needs. Greater consideration will be given to projects/programs that provide a clear description of the project/program with supporting data and methodology of how the project will meet these needs.

1. **Describe the proposed project/program, including how the project/program will address the National Objective indicated (CDBG ONLY) and whether the project/program is new, ongoing, or expanded from previous years.**

Domestic violence is a pervasive public safety and social issue that cuts across age, race, class, religion, and culture. It affects not only individuals and their families, but the community as a whole. Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that include physical, sexual, and psychological attacks. The physical and emotional consequences of domestic violence place victims at a greater risk for mental health issues, substance abuse, poverty, child abuse, and homelessness.

For the second straight year, Nevada has been **ranked 1st** in the nation for women killed by an intimate partner according to the Violence Policy Center report. On a local level, the most recent data from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety cited Carson City as the third highest county in the state for incidents of domestic violence. The United Way of Northern Nevada and Sierra 2005 Community Assessment documented that women are five times more likely to be victimized by domestic violence than men and face a 75% higher chance of being murdered when they flee an abusive relationship. When women with limited economic resources become victims of domestic violence, they also become vulnerable to homelessness. According to the 2010 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, more than **80% of homeless women with children** had previously experienced **domestic violence**.

Our program directly targets “socially disadvantaged and/or economically needy families” who are at-risk or in crisis as a result of family violence. Victims initially contact the program through the 24-hour crisis hot-line, police, hospital, social services, or community referral. Although domestic violence is experienced by women of all socio-economic levels, shelters are primarily utilized by victims with low incomes, few resources, and limited options. It is imperative that victims receive not only protection, but also **support and services** to increase their ability to achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency, reducing the necessity to return to an abusive relationship.

The emergency shelter program provides needed housing and case management to homeless victims of domestic violence. The program is ongoing and has been fortunate to receive CSSG funding since 1992.

2. If the proposed project/program already exists, please describe your success rates in providing services to low- to moderate-income persons:

After a victim enters the shelter, an intensive intake and family history is collected, a self-sufficiency matrix is conducted, and short and long-term goals are set. The shelter program is structured to give victims the resources and guidance to re-establish their independence and work toward self-sufficiency. To this end, victims meet daily with the Case Manager to develop goals and secure employment, childcare, transportation, job training, education, and housing. In addition, AEDV provides a 24-hour crisis hot-line, individual counselling, restraining/stalking order assistance, life skills, parenting classes, support groups, and victim advocacy. Of the clients who completed the five-month emergency shelter program in 2012, **97% had not re-entered abusive relationships** and were able to move into their own homes.

3. Describe who will benefit from the proposed project/program.

Victims often contact AEDV at the lowest point in their lives after enduring emotional, verbal, sexual, and physical abuse. During the past calendar year, the average client entering the shelter was 36 years old, with two children under the age of five, unemployed, without transportation, and not receiving public assistance. Twenty-seven percent had not graduated high school or received a GED. In addition, 70% were Caucasian, 25% were Hispanic, 2% were Native American, 2% were Asian, and the remaining were comprised of African American and Mid-Eastern clients. AEDV estimates that between 3% and 5% of our clients seeking services are functionally illiterate, requiring extra assistance with the proper completion of forms or obtaining documentation to apply for aid from social service agencies. **99%** of clients entered the program qualifying in the **“very low” income** category, with the remaining falling in the 1% “low” income category.

4. If your project is designed to serve a specific or limited clientele, please indicate the population you will be serving with your project/program:

☐ Abused Children	☐ Illiterate Persons	☐ Homeless Persons
☒ Battered Spouses	☐ Elderly	☐ Severely Disabled Adults
☐ Migrant Farm Workers	☒ Other	Victims of Domestic Violence

5. For CDBG ONLY. If your project/program will not be serving one of the above limited clientele categories, explain how you will document client income and how you will document that at least 51% of your clientele will be low-to-moderate income:

6. How will the funds be used on this project/program?

Requested CSSG funds will be combined with other raised and donated resources to operate the **51-bed emergency shelter** and provide case management for victims and their children. These costs will include utilities, food, building maintenance, and a small portion of the Case Manager's salary.

7. **Describe how your organization plans to reduce the need for grant funding in the future:**

Funding will be leveraged with additional grant funds and resources to provide essential services to victims of domestic violence and their children. AEDV has strived to diversify our funding sources incorporating local, state, and federal government sources, as well as **raising 55% percent** of annual revenue through fundraising efforts that involves events, direct mail requests, general donations, and a thrift shop. These efforts demonstrate AEDV's on-going drive to develop a **diverse funding base** toward program sustainability and continuation.

8. **Could your organization use less than the amount of funds requested for the proposed project/program? Please explain.**

Funding sources are limited and highly competitive, requiring AEDV to focus on providing proven programs in an effective manner. The revenue received through CSSG **is crucial for the continuation** of currently provided programs and would be impossible to replace through other sources. The partnership AEDV has with Carson City has been instrumental in keeping the shelter doors open and available to families in Carson City for nearly twenty years. Though AEDV raises a the majority of agency revenue through fundraisers and donations, without grant funding, AEDV would not be able to continue to provide the needed level of services to victims. AEDV believes in the life-altering effects these programs have achieved and the future positive changes they will have on so many lives.

AEDV is aware of the limited CSSG funds available to assist community non-profits in providing necessary services to those in need, and therefore **has not requested** an increase in funding from the past year's levels.

9. **Are there other agencies or organizations that provide the same service as your organization? If so, how do you coordinate your services with that organization?**

AEDV is the only agency providing emergency shelter and crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence in the Carson City area. AEDV **works in a collaborative** effort with other social service organizations and agencies in order to provide a full range of opportunities and services to the clients we serve. AEDV's **51-bed emergency shelter** is the largest domestic violence facility in Northern Nevada and can offer victims up to **five-months of emergency stay** with an additional twelve months through the transitional housing program.

10. **What is the geographic target area that will be served by this project/program?**

☐ Target Area (specify geographic area) _____
OR
☒ Community-wide

For Public Improvement (construction) Projects only

1. Is the proposed project part of a larger project or is it a stand-alone project? (If part of a larger project, please describe the entire project.)
2. Can this project be done in different phases? _____ Yes _____ No
If YES, explain.
3. Have CDBG or CSSG funds been used for an earlier phase? _____ Yes _____ No4.
Who currently holds title to the property involved?
5. With whom will title be vested upon completion?
6. Do any rights-of-way, easements or other access rights need to be acquired?
_____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A
7. If the project requires water rights or well permits, have they been acquired?
_____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A

For CDBG Economic Development projects only:

1. Identify the proposed employers that will be assisted with this project; (b) describe how they will comply with the requirement that at least 51% of the permanent full-time jobs created are either held by or made available to LMI persons; and (c) explain how they will document the jobs created and the income levels of the persons hired.

For CDBG Housing Projects please indicate:

The number of homes to be rehabilitated: _____

The number of persons to be benefited: _____

III. PROJECT MEASUREMENT

Carson City has implemented a Performance and Outcome Measurement System into the application and grant/project administration process. When completing this section, keep in mind that *outputs* are specific descriptions of what your project is intended to accomplish (such as serve a total of 20 clients) and *outcomes* are the benefits or changes that result from the program (such as how well the service met the client needs).

AEDV's request for funding will meet at least two of the City's stated goals: A Safe and Secure Community and a Healthy Community.

1. What are the projected outputs, or total number of people served, from this program/project?

The primary objective is to provide victims of domestic violence with a safe and protective environment in which to recover and move forward. AEDV will provide **45 primary adult** victims of domestic violence and **60 secondary victims** (children) with emergency shelter, safety, support, advocacy, and services to increase their ability to achieve self-sufficiency and a violence-free life.

2. Of the total number of people in Question 1, how many of these are low-to-moderate income (LMI)? How many are Carson City residents?

Utilizing past data, it is estimated that **100% of the clients** sheltered will qualify as low-to-moderate income. An estimated 80% of victims seeking shelter will be existing residents of Carson City. When a victim is terrified and unable to remain in their home or community due to safety concerns or lack of shelter services, they flee to find protection. AEDV's priority is to assist residents of Carson City and, when space is available, aid victims with a direct connection to our community such as employment, school, medical need, or family. As Carson City is the site of the area's regional hospital, AEDV is called upon to provide emergency shelter when victims from surrounding counties seek medical aid. In the past six months, roughly 10% of shelter clients have been from surrounding rural counties. Of these, 92% became self-sufficient, obtaining employment and housing, making Carson City their home. The remaining 8% were able to either return to their communities or relocate out of the area due to safety concerns.

3. What is the projected outcome of this program/project? (How will the outputs benefit the total number of people in Question 1?)

An estimated **4,200 nights of emergency shelter** and 12,600 meals will be provided to victims and their children. The Case Manager meets weekly to set measurable short and long term goals with clients that are tracked and documented in their file. An example of a short term goal would be receiving a protection order, applying for needed identification such as birth certificates, enrolling in GED classes, or applying for employment. A long term goal could be securing employment, purchasing a car, or moving from the shelter into a home of their own.

4. What procedures will be put into effect to create, compile and maintain data to track performance measurement for this program/project?

AEDV utilizes an **Outcome Matrix tool to evaluate** a victim's level of self-sufficiency when they enter the shelter and as they process through the program. The Matrix measures fifteen key factors that include safety, employment, mobility, healthcare, and life skills. As a client works toward self-sufficiency, securing employment and resources, the Matrix evaluates their progress and provides a tested method of measuring program effectiveness. In addition, a client's progress is document through the achievement of both short and long term goals which are set weekly with the input from the Case Manager and counselor. Case notes, matrix scores, goal sessions, group attendance, parenting sessions, individual counseling, court hearings, protection orders, and life skill classes combine to document a client's need **and progress toward independence.**

AEDV completes multiple site, financial, and program audits annually as required by state and federal granting sources. The audits ensure that **services are documented** and that accurate data is collected, reported, and securely maintained. Failure to pass an audit could result in a cancelation of program funding. In addition, AEDV has an **annual financial audit** conducted by an independent public accountant and **monthly financial statements** are compiled by an outside firm.

IV. PROJECT BUDGET

Complete the Budget Summary chart. More detailed budgets may be attached in support of the proposal. Identify sources of leveraged funding for the activity. Include the status of these funds (i.e. cash on hand, grants received, planned fund-raising, etc.) Attach copies of funding commitment letters or other evidence of funding support.

Project/Program Title:	Funds Requested	Leveraged Funds	Total Funds
Project/Program Expenses FY 2013-14			
Salaries and Benefits	\$4,600	\$57,138	\$61,738
Rent and Utilities	\$1,500	\$49,200	\$50,700
Mortgage	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	0	0	0
Office Supplies	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	0	\$8,200	\$8,200
Postage and Shipping	0	0	0
Printing and Publications	0	0	0
Advertising and Promotion	0	0	0
Subscriptions and Dues	0	0	0
Liability/Other Insurance	0	\$9,000	\$9,000
Professional Fees	0	0	0
Other project costs: (Specify Below)			
Food	\$1,500	\$10,500	\$12,000
Client Expenses	0	\$5,200	\$5,200
Shelter Maintenance	\$1,400	\$9,000	\$10,400
TOTALS	\$9,000	\$148,238	\$157,238

DETAILED BUDGET BREAKDOWN

COST CATEGORY	GRANT COST CONTRIBUTIONS	OTHER MONETARY	TOTAL PROGRAM
Salaries			
Client Resource Coordinator 40 hours per week/plus after hour emergency intervention	\$4,600	\$31,900	\$36,500
Shelter Manager (on site 24-hours)	0	9,800	9,800
Withholding/Benefits	0	15,438	15,438
Sub-Total	\$4,600	\$57,138	\$61,738
Shelter Expenses:			
Utilities	1,500	34,800	36,300
Food	1,500	10,500	12,000
Maintenance	1,400	9,000	10,400
Insurance	0	8,500	8,500
Operating Supplies	0	8,200	8,200
Rent	0	14,400	14,400
Client Expenses	0	5,700	5,700
Sub-Total	\$4,400	\$91,100	\$95,500
TOTAL	\$9,000	\$148,238	\$157,238

**These salaries only reflect the staff primarily responsible for working daily with shelter client.*

Matching Funding

<u>Shelter Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Secured</u>
Temporary Aid to Needy Families	\$40,358	Secured
Emergency Shelter Grant	\$20,000	Secured
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	\$20,000	Secured
Family Violence Prevention	\$27,493	Secured
United Way	\$5,572	Pending
AEDV General Funds	\$34,815	On-Going
Total	\$148,238	

V. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

A. Provide the names, phone numbers and e-mails of the following people. (There may be more than one person responsible in each category. If the specific individual is not known, please give a job title):

1. The person to whom all questions regarding the application should be directed:

Lisa Lee, Executive Director

2. The person directly responsible for on-site supervision of the project/program, such as a project manager:

Lisa Lee, Executive Director

3. The person responsible for the financial management of the project/program, including preparation, review and approval of reimbursement requests:

Terri Farnworth, Office Manager, Post Office Box 2529, Carson City, Nevada, 89702, 883-7654, advocates.om@gmail.com

4. Please list the name, address, phone number and e-mail of the person responsible for preparing the quarterly reports and tracking the performance on this program/project.

Lisa Lee, Executive Director, Post Office Box 2529, Carson City, Nevada 89702, 883-7654, carsonadvocates@aol.com

VI. AGENCY INFORMATION

1. **Proof of non-profit status for private agencies (governmental entities and schools are exempt):**

Date of incorporation	1981
Date of IRS certification	June 1980
Tax exempt number	94-2665387

2. **DUNS Number:** 027915367

For information on DUNS, go to: <http://www.ccr.gov/pdfs/DUNSGuideGovVendors.pdf>

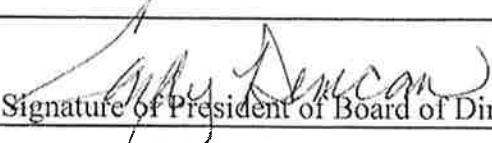
3. **Attach the following to each copy of the Proposal for Funding:**

- IRS Tax Exempt "501(c)(3)" letter.
- Proof of incorporation from Secretary of State (CERTIFICATE ONLY)
- Current organization chart with names of staff members. Staff members may not serve as a Board Member of the agency they work for.
- List of current Board of Directors and terms of office. If a member of your Board of Directors is in a position to obtain a financial benefit or interest from your proposed project, you may be ineligible for CDBG funds (See 24 CFR 570.611).
- For all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations:* a copy of the organization's most recently submitted Federal Tax Return (Form 990 or 990EX). Governmental bodies and schools are exempt from this requirement.

4. **Required Certification (see instructions):**

Applicant certifies that to the best of his/her knowledge, all information submitted as part of this application is true. Applicant will comply with all grant and contract requirements if funding is approved.

 Signature of Authorized Official	1/9/13 Date
Lisa Lee, Executive Director Typed Name and Title of Authorized Official	883-7654 Phone Number

 Signature of President of Board of Directors	1/11/13 Date
Candy Duncan Typed Name of President of Board of Directors	883-5818 Phone Number

Carson City, A Consolidated Municipality

Semi - Annual Report
For Community Support Services Funding
Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Name of Organization: Advocates To End Domestic Violence (AEDV)

Program/Project: Emergency Shelter

Amount of Funds Received \$ 9,000

Contact Person: Lisa M. Lee, Executive Director

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 2529

City: Carson City **State:** Nevada **Zip Code:** 89702

Phone Number: 883-7654 **Email:** carsonadvocates@aol.com

Date Submitted: January 18, 2013

AEDV was awarded a \$9,000 grant to fund emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. The grant is effective from July 1, 2012 though June 30, 2013. The following is a mid-year accounting of expended funds and program goals.

- Please attach a final financial income and expense statement that specifically explains how grant funds were used, including a comparison between your budgeted and your actual incomes and expenses.**

<u>Granted Expenditures</u>	<u>Awarded Funding</u>	<u>Expended To-Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Client Resource Coord.	\$4,600	\$2,300	\$2,300
Food	1,500	672	828
Maintenance	1,400	0	1,400
Shelter Utilities	1,500	334	1,166
Total	\$9,000	\$3,306	\$5,694

AEDV combines several grants to fund the emergency shelter. To simplify the accounting process, we expend the resources of each grant before we begin allocating funds from the next grant. The majority of CSSG funding will be expended during the third and fourth quarters with a zero balance remaining by the end of the fiscal cycle.

2. Evaluate your achievement of your program/proposal objectives listed in your application:

The primary program goal is to provide emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children on a 24-hour basis. AEDV's grant proposal projected that 4,200 nights of shelter would be provided to victims and their children, or 2,100 by mid-year. By the end of December 2012, the shelter had provided **2,969 nights** of shelters to victims and their children. This represents a **43% increase** from the same point in time last year.

Victims typically enter the shelter with only a few personal items and often in the middle of the night. The on-site, 24-hour manager ensures that individuals and families have everything they need to be comfortable and secure. The Client Resource Coordinator (case manager) conducts an intensive intake, explains the rules, and meets with the clients daily to set goals and secure needed resources. As each client has their own history and special needs, the program is designed to ensure that clients are given individual attention and guidance toward becoming self-reliant.

3. Approximately how many people benefitted from your project? How many of those people were Carson City residents? What were some of the individual benefits?

For the reporting period (July through December), **53 victims** and their children were provided emergency shelter. Of these clients, 10% were from surrounding rural counties. As Carson Tahoe Hospital is a regional medical facility for the surrounding rural communities, it is often necessary to provide shelter and support services to victims upon their release. Since many victims cannot return to their homes, they choose to relocate to Carson City. Some of the clients to whom we provide services need only a few nights of shelter and limited assistance with relocation to another area, while other clients require the full five months of shelter.

The past six months has seen a larger than normal number of families with very young children and infants in need of shelter. This poses increased challenges of transportation, childcare and restricted work schedules. The Client Resource Coordinator has secured birth certificates and social security cards so that clients are able to apply for employment, public assistance, and housing. This is a time intensive task that involves different levels of expense depending upon the state in which the birth certificate was issued.

One of the most challenging cases we worked with was a young mother who entered the program in mid-July. She had a young school age daughter, limited job skills, and no transportation. During the four months she resided in the shelter, she was able to secure a restraining order, obtain full-time employment, child care, participated in the life skill classes, counseling, parenting classes, and

support groups. AEDV provided the client and her child with JAC bus passes, but unfortunately, her job often required that she work nights and weekends, times when the bus does not operate. Many nights, the client walked back to the shelter with her child along unlit streets. Due to a generous vehicle donation to the agency, AEDV was able to gift the car to the client, which transformed her options and opportunities. Since the client was employed, she was able to register and insure the car, which provided her the ability to get back and forth to work as well as take her child to necessary appointments without regard for bus schedules and routes. The car allowed the client to work additional shifts which enabled her to save more money and move from the shelter, into a home of her own. The lack of transportation limits many sheltered clients ability to access opportunities available within the community.

4. What specific community benefit did your project provide Carson City?

Safe shelter is an essential need. Without a safe and protective place to which victims can turn, an immeasurable strain would be placed on public resources, ranging from law enforcement to the hospital. A community is judged by how it cares for its citizens, and providing crisis intervention and support services for victims of domestic violence is a basic responsibility of every community.

5. Will this program/project be reoccurring? How do you anticipate funding the project in the future?

We believe that one day family violence will be eliminated from our culture and there will be no need for emergency shelters for victims and their children. Until that time, shelter and support services are essential.

6. Describe any challenges that impacted your program.

Operating a non-profit is financially challenging in the best of economic times but even more so during the past four years. The clients we serve are not visible in the community. They do not stand on the street corners or protest in front of the capital. They are our sisters, mothers, daughters, and friends and are very often ashamed that they have to seek help in order to protect themselves and their children. In an environment where there are so many causes and social needs, it is a challenge to find and secure necessary funding to support the shelter. Many funding sources want innovative short term projects without realizing that those projects can only work if the client is in a safe place. The funding that AEDV receives from the City of Carson is necessary for the operation of the shelter and would be difficult to replace. It is because of this funding that AEDV has been able to provide safety and housing to women and children who have no other place to hide.