

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

State Department:
NJ Department of Children and Families
Name of Expenditure Program:
Domestic Violence- Increased Shelter Capacity-21 Agencies
Amount:
\$709,000

Overview:

It is expected that the length of stay for each family will increase due to the lack of available housing and the compounded trauma of a natural disaster. Domestic Violence Lead Agencies will need to be able to buy additional space at a hotel. As a result, DCF intends to allocate \$709,000 to expand emergency domestic violence shelter capacity to ensure access for all victims. Unlike the FVPSA funds that will address longer term alternate housing assistance for individuals this funding will take care of the immediate need for safe shelter in cases of increased need for bed space on an agency basis.

The increased length of shelter stay, the lack of available housing and the compounded trauma of a natural disaster has impacted service delivery throughout New Jersey. When safe sheltering is needed and there is insufficient space at a domestic violence shelter, funding will be provided to the agency through SSBG for a hotel or motel until a shelter space is available. This funding will be available to agencies for two years to mitigate the impact of the emergency sheltering process for victims of domestic violence. The identified funding will increase bed capacity and allow more victims to access safe shelter throughout the state.

Examples of emergency sheltering in response to the natural disaster are:

- Victims who may have to return to living arrangements where there was abuse previously,
- A victim/family may need shelter, however due to increased length of stay there is no room at the local shelter,
- A family that has shared housing due to the storm and are newly exposed to abuse through this change in living arrangements,
- A situation related to the storm that may aggravate strained child custody issues,
- A victim dependent on an abusive partner due to a 'head of household designation' for relief funds,
- A victim family that may need assistance due to the lack of available housing (due to storm damage and destruction) or due to the increase need of other families looking for available alternate housing,

Federal Department of Origin:

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U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services – The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, (P. L. 113-2); “Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds” to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and other social services facilities.

Federal Requirements / Restrictions:

Funds to be totally expended by September 30, 2015.

Also subject to Integrity Oversight monitoring via Assembly Bill A60 (A-60)(P.L.2013,c.37).

Additional State regulations related to Governor Christie's Executive Order 125, as well as all applicable federal and state regulations for Procurement and Grants Management

Selection Standards:

This is an expansion of existing contracts through an increase of funding at 21 proposed agencies. Each grantee is part of the network of lead domestic violence agencies throughout the state. Each of these agencies has the specialized skill and facility to provide safe shelter and supportive counseling to victims and their family.

Eligibility Standards:

Domestic violence victims may confirm they have been affected by Superstorm Sandy through an attestation shall sign upon presenting themselves at a domestic violence agency for services. If an attestation is on file and the domestic violence agency is full then this funding may be used to service additional victims.

Other Notes:

Some domestic violence agencies may have declined funding and funding may be reallocated in the future.