

What New York's Domestic Violence Programs Need Now

New York's domestic violence shelters and programs vary in physical shelter layout, capacity, continuum of services, budget, community partnerships and resources, and geography. They need flexible resources to meet their unique needs.

Shelter and Housing Resources:

- **Housing** — Flexible emergency funding to provide alternate safe shelter and rental assistance to allow sheltered families to move on and make room for more emergency shelter for new families.
- **Food** — Funding to feed families in shelter without communal cooking and food services for families sheltered off-site.
- **Experts** — Epidemiological assistance to help programs estimate the impact on shelter populations and staff and advise on shelter modifications.
- **Building Modifications** — Funding for shelter modifications (i.e. sleeping and bathroom trailers on-site, other low cost modifications to allow for de-congregating shelters).
- **Sanitization** — Funding for routine professional sanitization of program facilities.
- **Public Awareness Campaign** — Funding for a traditional and social media program to assure the public that safe shelter is still an option for survivors and their children during this Pandemic.

Personnel:

- **Payroll** — Funding for hazard pay, overtime pay and other benefits to support and retain the specialized domestic violence workforce in New York (and to ensure compensation at the same rate as other human services professions).
- **Testing/Vaccines** — Inclusion of DV program staff and survivors living in communal shelter settings among priority populations for COVID-19 and antibody testing.

Materials, Supplies and Technology:

- **Personal Protective Equipment** — Funding for and access to acquire PPE, sanitizing stations, equipment and supplies.
- **Technology** — Technology for remote services and e-learning for children in shelters and to provide remote advocacy services for DV survivors who are not in shelter (laptops, hot spots, cell phones, etc.)
- **Child Supplies** — Activity supplies for children confined to shelters or their bedrooms during shelter stays.
- **Gift Cards** — Support for unanticipated needs of families and programs.
- **Supply Chain Access** — Resources and supply chain access to ensure an adequate supply of groceries, diapers, formula, thermometers, oxygen tanks and pulse/oxygen monitors, Pedialyte, Gatorade, toilet paper, paper products, etc.

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