

Priority Response Area: Sheltering

Rationale:

The economic and social consequences of the coronavirus pandemic include heightened risks for housing insecurity, homelessness and family violence, and these [issues are inextricably linked](#). Leaders and staff in both fields report increased demand for services and basic needs as well as considerable stress on shelter-based nonprofits due to unexpected operational demands, such as increased sanitation protocols, concerns about health and safety for staff, residents and those seeking services, and the need for rapidly changing processes in order to shift to remote programming. Additional information to consider:

- Domestic violence (DV) occurs across all populations and communities but [disproportionately](#) impacts certain groups who are already faced with systemic inequities, including people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ, women, children and rural residents.
- Victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence are particularly vulnerable because they often face significant economic hardship [as a result of the violence committed against them](#).
- Economic hardship, limited access to resources and social isolation increase risk for child maltreatment. Additionally, [90% of children](#) are eyewitnesses to violence when it is happening in the home.
- Many victims of DV already experience social isolation and the current circumstances greatly reduce the opportunities to seek help. Distancing also limits or eliminates interactions with professionals who are mandated to report abuse and child maltreatment concerns.
- Economic hardship and social isolation coupled with [record breaking sales of firearms](#) prompts even greater concerns for safety in the home. In addition to the increasing threat of fatal violence against oneself or others, novice gun owners may be less likely to store firearms safely, creating serious injury risk for children and youth.
- A relatively low [percentage of victims](#) of DV receive medical care for their injuries, increasing concerns that even less will seek health services during the pandemic.
- From 2014 through 2018, an average of about 10,000 requests (not unique individuals) for shelter by domestic violence victims [could not be met](#), raising considerable concern for increases in demand and further necessitating housing alternatives such as hotels.
- Youth who identify as LGBTQ, pregnant and parenting youth, youth with special needs or disabilities, youth of color and youth with system involvement are [more likely to experience homelessness](#).
- Many youth and young adults experiencing homelessness have experienced trauma before and after becoming homeless and are particularly vulnerable to violence and exploitation.
- Rural communities with already limited sheltering resources report concerns about increased demands and constrained budgets that do not allow for incentives such as hazard pay for staff.

Housing and safety from violence are immediate needs and will continue to emerge during and beyond this period of isolation and economic uncertainty. Funding organizations focused on housing supports and addressing violence for those most at risk is strongly aligned with the CFC commitment to equity and to supporting the health of children, youth and families.

Funding Recommendations

Domestic-Violence Organizations, \$250,000

- **Violence Free Colorado**, statewide, \$25,000. To support a statewide response and advocacy network among organizations providing domestic violence services in Colorado. In addition, Violence Free will distribute general operating grants to ten additional DV organizations around the state, with a focus on rural organizations, organizations providing culturally specific services and organizations reaching families likely to be most impacted by

the current public health crisis. The below organizations provide services such as shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, intensive case management, legal advocacy and assistance with long-term housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and trafficking.

- **Southern Ute Victim Services**, SW CO, La Plata county, \$25,000
- **Ute Mountain Ute Victim Services**, SW CO, Montezuma county, \$25,000
- **Share, Inc.**, NE CO, Morgan county, \$25,000
- **Open Heart Advocates**, NW CO, Moffat county, \$25,000
- **Tu Casa**, Southern CO, SLV, \$25,000
- **Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence: SPAN**, Boulder and Broomfield, \$25,000
- **Latina Safehouse**, Denver metro, \$25,000
- **Advocates of Lake County**, Central Mountains, Lake county, \$25,000
- **Voces Unidas for Justice**, El Paso county, \$25,000

Youth-Focus Sheltering and Housing Support, \$250,000

In addition to reaching youth within the local geographic region, each shelter listed has statewide reach.

- **Attention Home**, Boulder, \$35,000
- **Karis, Inc.**, Western Slope, \$35,000
- **Urban Peak**, Denver metro, \$35,000
- **The Place**, CO Springs, \$35,000
- **Posada**, Pueblo/SE CO, \$35,000
- **CASA of the 7th**, Western Slope, \$20,000
- **Rural Collaborative for Homeless Youth**, statewide, \$55,000. The Rural Collaborative fields calls and connects youth to assistance statewide. The organization will distribute funds to rural efforts across CO. The Rural Collaborative has established partnership with the organizations below:
 - **La Plata Youth Services**, La Plata county and SW CO
 - **Centennial BOCES**, Logan, Morgan, Washington and Weld counties and NE CO
 - **Shiloh House**, Weld, Larimer, Morgan and Northern CO
 - **La Puente**, Alamosa and the SLV

Resources/Articles:

- [Amid coronavirus quarantines and job losses, CO girds for wave of domestic violence](#) (CO Sun)
- [LGBTQ Homeless Fear Violence, Illness as Coronavirus Shuts Shelters](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Experts fear child abuse will increase with coronavirus isolation](#) (NBC News)
- [Statistics](#) (National Coalition to End Domestic Violence)
- [Who Experiences Homelessness? Youth and Young Adults](#). National Alliance to End Homelessness