

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for the
OVW FY 2012, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and
Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

Among the following governmental agencies:

- New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence;
- Office of the District Attorney, Kings County (Brooklyn);
- New York City Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator;
- New York City Police Department;
- New York City Department of Probation; and
- New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Among the following nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services organizations:

- Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project;
- New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project; and
- Safe Horizon, Inc.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirms the mutual support that each agency or organization will provide in the continuation of the Early Victim Engagement Project at the New York City Family Justice Center, Brooklyn, New York (EVE Project), a project to be funded under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program of the Office on Violence Against Women within the United States Department of Justice (OVW). The continuation of the EVE Project will be implemented by the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), the King's County District Attorney's Office (KCDA), Safe Horizon, Inc., Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project (Safe Homes), New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP), in collaboration with New York City Police Department (NYPD), New York City Department of Probation (Probation) and New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). It will build upon the success of the current Family Justice Center (FJC) model of multi-disciplinary service delivery and the extensive history of collaboration among the MOU signatory agencies.

The EVE Project will continue to reach out to victims before and after an abusive partner has been arraigned to provide them with critical information on the outcome of the arraignment. The EVE Project will continue to provide additional services to four traditionally underserved groups: 1) victims of domestic violence whose partner poses a high risk to them; 2) victims of ongoing abuse who are the subjects of cross complaints; 3) victims who identify as LGBT; and 4) immigrant domestic violence victims who may be eligible for a U-Visa. The EVE Project will also continue focus on three Brooklyn precincts with a high rate of domestic violence crime, contacting victims who called the police, but the complaint was for a low-level, non-arrestable offense, in order to connect those victims to the FJC for services.

The continuation funding would support this ongoing work as well as introduce substantial enhancements. Specifically EVE Project staff will provide: A) enhanced case monitoring and safety planning to certain categories of victims of domestic violence after the disposition of their criminal case; B) intensified work with victims whose partner poses a high risk to them; C) strengthened monitoring for victims eligible for a U-Visa; and D) customized services to victims of domestic violence whose abusive partner is on Probation and/or Parole.

The lead partner, OCDV, and all of the partner agencies described below have the expertise, experience, and commitment to ensure the continued success of the EVE Project. If this application for OVW funding is denied, it is fully understood that all agencies and organizations that sign this MOU are in *no way* obligated to provide the resources or services described in this document.

Brief History of the Collaboration, Roles and Responsibilities of Identified Partners

The EVE Project will be implemented by OCDV with KCDA as the lead partner. The partnership between these two agencies has developed through the collaboration they formed to create New York City's first FJC, located in Brooklyn, which opened in 2005. The FJC, which was the first Center in the country to open under the OVW President's Family Justice Center Initiative, is located on an entire floor of an office building in downtown Brooklyn which also houses KCDA and other City agencies. Partner agencies collaborate while maintaining their victim confidentiality requirements. The criminal justice section of the FJC includes the entire Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Bureaus of KCDA (including prosecutors, government victim advocates and administrative support staff) and two NYPD Domestic Violence Prevention Officers. The civil side of the FJC consists of 22 community based agencies which provide case management and nonprofit victim advocacy, the New York City Human Resources Administration which offers social services and economic assistance, six civil legal services organizations which offer assistance with family, matrimonial and immigration issues, and the FJC Self-Sufficiency Program. Cross-disciplinary training and substantial volunteer projects, such as assistance in the Children's Room, enhance the work of the Center partners.

OCDV and KCDA were the primary partners on the initial Department of Justice President's Family Justice Center Initiative grant application (#2004-WE-AX-K017) which resulted in the opening of the New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn in July 2005. Of the MOU partners in the current application, OCDV, KCDA, CJC, Probation, NYPD, and Safe Horizon, a nonprofit victim services organization, were among the original partners at the creation of the FJC. The other three MOU partners in the current application are Safe Homes, AVP and DOCCS. Safe Homes, a nonprofit victim advocacy organization which specializes in working with Latina and LGBT-identified clients, was originally an off-site partner of the FJC and became an on-site FJC partner in January 2007. AVP, an original off-site partner of the FJC, has provided training to all FJC staff on LGBT issues and has taken referrals of FJC clients who identify as LGBT since the Center's inception. Since 2010, AVP has been an on-site partner. All of the above MOU partners, except AVP, participated in the initial implementation of the EVE Project. Since July 2005, the FJC administrative staff has met regularly with KCDA and the other FJC agency partners to discuss how to most effectively reach domestic violence victims through the FJC model.

All of the partners to this MOU, except AVP, were the original partners on the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women's Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders awarded in Fiscal Year 2007 (#2007-WE-AX-0024). With the exception of DOCCS, all of the partners to this MOU were part of the Community-Defined Solutions to Violence Against Women continuation funding that was awarded in Fiscal Year 2010 (#2007-WE-AX-0024). This grant application seeks to continue the existing program and extend the monitoring of criminal cases, enhance risk assessment work with victims whose partner poses a high risk to them, enhance work with domestic violence victims seeking a U-Visa and strengthen our current collaborations with the Probation and DOCCS.

Governmental Agencies

New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

In November 2001, New York City voters approved an amendment to the City Charter to convert the Commission to Combat Family Violence (established by Executive Order in 1994) into a permanent office of City government, headed by a Commissioner. In February 2002, Mayor Bloomberg appointed Yolanda B. Jimenez as the Commissioner of the office; she remains the current Commissioner. OCDV oversees and coordinates the domestic violence services of all City agencies and is responsible for developing mechanisms to ensure accountability. OCDV has a history of working with diverse groups of domestic violence victims, healthcare providers, nonprofit and government victim advocates, legal service providers, and faith leaders.

OCDV has implemented a number of programs to help domestic violence victims access the services they need to find safety. One such program, the Language Line Program, allows victims with limited English proficiency to tell their stories to the police and get access to the help they need. As a result of this program, all New York City police precincts have direct, instant access to multiple language interpreters 24 hours a day to assist with the investigation of any crime. The Language Line Program was originally piloted with domestic violence victims in several ethnically diverse communities through a Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women grant (#2001-WE-BX-0006), a collaboration with CJC, NYPD and a nonprofit victim advocate organization.

Language access for Limited English Proficient (LEP) New Yorkers has been a cornerstone of OCDV's programs since its inception in 2002. In January 2009, in response to an Executive Order of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, OCDV made public its Language Access Plan in which the full range of interpretation and translation efforts are described including programs that demonstrate OCDV's commitment to ensuring that limited English proficiency is not a barrier to service. Since it opened in 2005, the FJC has provided language interpretation to nearly all LEP clients seeking services. As of spring 2010, FJC client materials, including brochures and forms, are available in up to 14 languages.

Another program, the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) creates a model of inter-agency cooperation and communication to provide services to high-risk domestic violence victims. Through DVRT, the City is able to analyze the flow of service delivery. Based upon the in-depth discussion of cases, DVRT develops recommendations to enhance the provision of services to domestic violence victims Citywide. DVRT has led to several major policy changes that improved service delivery to domestic violence victims. DVRT was originally launched in 2002 as a pilot program in precincts in Brooklyn and the Bronx with the highest rates of domestic violence. DVRT was later expanded to Queens, and successfully operated out of Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens until the NYC Family Justice Centers opened in those three boroughs. In 2011, the Staten Island DVRT program was created to operate within the three precincts located on Staten Island.

Other examples of OCDV citywide activities include changes in housing policies making it easier for domestic violence victims to obtain public housing, regular bilingual awareness campaigns to encourage victims to seek assistance, a runaway homeless youth initiative funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee which reviews and analyzes homicide statistics to make recommendations to improve victim services.

The operations of the FJC in Brooklyn are managed by OCDV through an Executive Director and other FJC administrative staff members. The objective of the FJC is to provide effective delivery of services to domestic violence victims in order to eliminate the barriers victims face when seeking services. At the FJC, essential advocacy, case management, and criminal and civil legal assistance to domestic violence victims are provided under one roof. The services are all provided by on-site partner agencies, including victim advocacy organizations, City and State agencies, and faith-based organizations. The services currently available at the FJC include: criminal prosecution; civil legal advice for immigration, divorce, and Family Court matters; police services; counseling for children; assistance with emergency shelter, permanent housing, and public assistance applications; childcare; safety planning; crisis and long-term counseling; services for the elderly/disabled; emergency food, baby, and clothing supplies; language interpretation; and self-sufficiency services. Since opening on July 20, 2005, through March 2, 2012 there have been 100,890 client visits to the FJC in Brooklyn.

Because of the success of the Brooklyn FJC, the City committed to continuing its funding after the federal funding ended. In addition, the City committed to and currently funds FJCs in Queens (opened in 2008) and the Bronx (opened in 2010). A Manhattan FJC is planned to open in 2013. Since opening through March 2, 2012, there have been 160,600 client visits to the all FJCs (100,890 to the Brooklyn FJC, 36,320 to the Queens FJC and 23,390 to the Bronx FJC).

OCDV's Commitment and Responsibilities

OCDV will be responsible for providing and supervising the following staff:

- **The FJC Executive Director will:**
 - Ensure the success of the grant;
 - Supervise the work of the EVE Project Director, ensuring that the EVE Project is meeting all goals and objectives;
 - Consult with the EVE Project Director and Project participants; and
 - Report regularly to OCDV regarding Project outcomes.

- **The EVE Project Director will:**
 - Coordinate all of the EVE Project staff and partner agencies to effectively implement the goals of the grant;
 - Through frequent communication, maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with all Project partners;
 - Facilitate regular meetings and trainings with all EVE Project partner staff to ensure for transparent communication and adherence to confidentiality policies;
 - Provide administrative supervision to all frontline EVE Project staff in collaboration with their organization's managers/directors;
 - Create, review and evaluate all procedures, protocols and training curricula used by EVE Project staff;
 - Coordinate the high risk review team and meet regularly with FJC Client Intake Specialists;
 - Using both the computerized KCDA database and spreadsheets, manage and analyze all data gathered by EVE Project staff;
 - Modify and create database and tracking forms, as needed;
 - Generate reports and maintain detailed information about the efforts made by all EVE Project staff;
 - Meet weekly with KCDA's Victim Services Unit Director and DA Coordinator to discuss Project coordination;
 - Meet biweekly with the nonprofit victims advocates' supervisors;
 - Meet daily with DA Coordinator to review the evolving needs of the Project; and
 - Coordinate all of the EVE Project staff and partner agencies to effectively implement the goals of the grant; and
 - Submit OVW Semi-Annual Reports in a timely manner.

OCDV's Resource Contributions

OCDV will provide the following in-kind contributions:

- Program grant management and evaluation expertise of the OCDV Assistant Commissioner for Administration;
- Office space, telephones and service, computers with internet access, information technology services, security, and copier and fax machine access for all OCDV and

- nonprofit partner staff on-site at the FJC;
- Access for all FJC EVE clients to the full range of services available at the FJC including, but not limited to self-sufficiency services including ESL classes and job training; long-term counseling; case management; and key client documents in multiple languages; and
- All work of the FJC Executive Director on this Project.

Kings County District Attorney's Office

KCDA is charged with the duty to protect the public by investigating and prosecuting criminal conduct. KCDA staff includes Assistant District Attorneys, Detective Investigators, government victim advocates, and support staff. KCDA government victim advocates are dually trained in both clinical social work and criminal justice advocacy, and provide support for victims and assistance with dispositions of criminal complaints consistent with the goals of ensuring victim safety and holding offenders accountable for their criminal conduct.

In 2003, KCDA partnered with OCDV to submit an application for funding to create a Family Justice Center in Brooklyn through the OVW President's Family Justice Center Initiative. The entire staff of KCDA Domestic Violence Bureau and the Elder Abuse Bureau is physically located at the FJC. KCDA prosecutes criminal domestic violence cases and works with the on-site FJC nonprofit and government victim advocates, civil attorneys, designated New York City Police Officers, New York City Probation Officers, and interfaith spiritual support caregivers.

Since 1990, KCDA has developed numerous programs and fostered collaborations to protect domestic violence victims, including: the country's first specialized Domestic Violence Felony Court part; the state's first specialized Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Court parts and a Youthful Offender Court part; one of the first victim/witness programs within a District Attorney's Office in the nation; a unique Domestic Violence Court technology; and using digital 911 recording technology to enhance arraignment and prosecution. KCDA also focuses projects assisting traditionally underserved populations in Brooklyn such as the Haitian, Caribbean, Orthodox Jewish, and Asian communities as well as victims who are persons with disabilities.

Since 1990, KCDA has partnered with many of the current FJC nonprofit victim advocacy agency partners including civil legal services providers. For over 30 years, KCDA has worked with Safe Horizon, a nonprofit victim services organization and MOU signatory.

KCDA also meets regularly with the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Criminal Court and Supreme Court judges at bi-monthly partnership meetings and attends the Domestic Violence Family Court Working Group. Moreover, KCDA regularly trains law enforcement, the judiciary and FJC nonprofit and government partner staff on criminal justice issues.

KCDA Commitment and Responsibilities

KCDA will be responsible for providing and supervising the following EVE Project staff:

- **Four KCDA Paralegals, three of whom will be assigned to the Brooklyn Criminal**

Court arraignment parts and one assigned to the KCDA Domestic Violence Bureau at the FJC. Their duties will be as follows:

- Review all incoming domestic violence case files, pre- and post- arraignment, gather information about the defendant's post-arrest behavior and highlight the case information to the prosecutor staffing arraignments;
 - Contact victims immediately following the arraignment to provide important safety information about the outcome of the arraignment, enroll the victim in the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system when appropriate, and schedule an intake appointment with the victim at the FJC if s/he is interested;
 - Photocopy the order of protection and scan and store it in an electronic library, notify the victim regarding the order of protection, and upon victim request, mail or email the order to the victim;
 - Alert the appropriate member of KCDA's OVW-funded Central Brooklyn Domestic Violence Program after identifying a victim who is eligible for their services;
 - Transfer the victim to the Safe Horizon nonprofit victim advocate for intensive risk assessment and safety planning and linkage to the FJC;
 - Via email, provide the offender's arrest information to designated Probation and DOCCS supervisors;
 - Work closely with the FJC based EVE Project victim advocates to gather objective information that can be used to determine who the actual perpetrator of abuse is in a cross complaint case;
 - Work closely with the FJC based EVE Project victim advocates to collect documents and information needed for undocumented immigrant domestic violence victims to complete a U-Visa petition;
 - Serve as a liaison to all FJC partner agency staff with respect to criminal case monitoring and to ensure optimal collaboration between community based and criminal justice partner staff members at the FJC;
 - Use Language Line Services' telephonic interpretation and the New York Relay Service to communicate with victims in their appropriate language;
 - Enter all work into KCDA's EVE Project computerized database;
 - Attend biweekly EVE staff meetings; and
 - Compile accurate and comprehensive monthly data reports.
- **One DA Coordinator assigned to KCDA Domestic Violence Bureau at the FJC will:**
- Supervise the four EVE Project paralegals;
 - Review case files upon their return to the Domestic Violence Bureau after arraignment and input information into KCDA's EVE Project database;
 - Maintain the EVE Project criminal order of protection electronic library;
 - Partner with the EVE Project Director to modify the KCDA case tracking database, as needed;
 - Provide the FJC Project Director with reports on the criminal justice activities of the FJC EVE Project;
 - Compile accurate and comprehensive monthly data reports;

- Meet weekly with EVE Project Director and KCDA's Victim Services Unit Deputy Director to discuss Project coordination;
- Meet daily with EVE Project Director to review the developing needs of the Project; and
- Attend biweekly EVE staff meetings.

KCDA's Resource Contributions

KCDA will provide the following in-kind contributions:

- Fringe benefits for all KCDA-funded staff under this grant;
- Office space, telephones and internet access, information technology support services, security, copier and fax machine access for all KCDA staff; and
- Expertise of KCDA leadership including the Chief of the Special Victims Division, the Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, the Chief of the Elder Abuse Bureau and the Director of the Counseling Services Unit.

New York City Police Department

The NYPD is the chief law enforcement agency for New York City. It is the largest municipal police department in the United States, covering the City's five boroughs: Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, or roughly 320 square miles. Over 35,000 uniformed officers of all ranks and approximately 8,000 civilians are employed by the NYPD.

The NYPD has two Patrol Boroughs in Brooklyn, namely, Patrol Borough Brooklyn North and Patrol Borough Brooklyn South. Within those two commands. There are 23 Police Precincts and three Housing Police Services Areas for public housing complexes. Each Precinct and Police Service Area is proactive in prevention, investigation and enforcement efforts to reduce domestic violence. All Domestic Violence Prevention Officers (DVPOs) and Investigators are trained as specialists in the field of domestic violence.

The NYPD has a Domestic Violence Unit in the Office of the Chief of Department. In addition to briefing the Police Commissioner, Chief of Department and other executive members of the NYPD on domestic violence issues, the Domestic Violence Unit acts as a liaison with the Mayor's Office, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, District Attorneys' Offices and nonprofit victim advocacy groups. The Domestic Violence Unit also develops and conducts training in conjunction with the Deputy Commissioner of Training. The Unit monitors domestic violence performance indicators in order to give precinct and borough commanders a measure of relative performance, as well as providing an indicator of the Department's performance as a whole. The NYPD has been committed to combating domestic violence and continues to develop innovative programs.

Each day in New York City, NYPD patrol officers respond to over 700 domestic violence incidents. Brooklyn has consistently had the highest volume of domestic violence crimes in the City. The NYPD was an original signatory to both the MOU to create the FJC in Brooklyn and the EVE Project MOU, and since July 2005, two full-time DVPOs have served on-site at the FJC

in Brooklyn. Two full-time DVPOs have also served on-site at the FJC in Queens (beginning in July 2008) and in the Bronx FJC (beginning in April 2010). In addition to working collaboratively with the on-site nonprofit victim advocacy staff and the government victim advocacy staff, the FJC DVPOs record criminal complaints and Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs), follow up with precincts on open cases, provide important NYPD information to victims and nonprofit and government victim advocates, and work with the precinct Police Officers and Detectives to assist in further investigations and arrests, if necessary.

The Domestic Violence Unit is responsible for the training of about 3,000 members of service (uniform and civilian). These sessions included: Promotional Training (Captain, Lieutenant and Sergeant), Probationary Police Officer Training, Precinct Level training, 911 Operator training, Civilian Supervisory and School Safety training. Additionally, the Domestic Violence Unit has trained employees of outside agencies and organizations. Among these agencies/organizations are the Department of Probation, Safe Horizon, Health and Hospitals Corporation, Administration for Child Services as well as civil advocates, social workers and attorneys assigned to the Family Justice Centers in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.

New York City Police Department Commitment and Responsibilities

The NYPD will continue to work collaboratively with partners at the FJC. The DVPOs at the 67th, 75th and 83rd Precincts will work collaboratively with the Safe Homes nonprofit victim advocate. As part of the EVE Project, the NYPD will provide the following activities in-kind:

- Access all DIRs from the three EVE Project-designated police precincts for which the only charge was Harassment in the 2nd degree (a violation-level crime that does not result in an arrest unless witnessed by a police officer);
- Provide victim contact information from the aforementioned DIRs to the Safe Homes nonprofit victim advocate once a week;
- Coordinate meetings between the Safe Homes nonprofit victim advocate, EVE Project Director and the DVPOs at the EVE Project precincts; and
- As needed, participate in the EVE Project's high risk review team;

New York City Department of Probation

The Department of Probation protects the community by intervening in the lives of offenders and holding them accountable. In collaboration with the community and other criminal justice partners, Probation provides information and services to the courts, gives victims a voice in the justice system, and encourages probation clients to become law-abiding members of the community, with emphasis placed on the deterrence of future violent behavior. Probation provides direct supervision of probationers and monitors their attendance at programs such as drug treatment programs.

A designated liaison within Probation provides information and support to the FJC by obtaining detailed information regarding probation clients. The Probation liaison works with KCDA to ascertain information regarding current probationers who are arrested for domestic violence offenses in order to coordinate the subsequent probation violation hearing and the prosecution of

the underlying new criminal offense. With sufficient access to facts, probation violation hearings can result in the revocation of probation status and incarcerated, often without victim/witness testimony. The Probation liaison also provides information to domestic violence victims whose abusers may be on probation. By accessing the Probation computer system, the Probation liaison can connect the victim to the Probation Officer assigned to the offender. The Probation liaison can also contact the Probation Legal Department should the victim wish to report a violation of the probation client's conditions of probation that could prompt a probation violation proceeding.

New York City Department of Probation Commitment and Responsibilities

The Department of Probation is responsible for the following:

- Supply the names and email addresses of designated Probation Supervisors to the EVE Project Director;
- Use EVE Project information to inform treatment of the probation client's case;
- Collaborate with KCDA regarding how best to hold the probation client accountable on the domestic violence arrest;
- Arrange for trainings to be facilitated by the FJC Executive Director and EVE Project Director at various Probation offices;
- As needed, participate in the EVE Project's high risk review team; and
- Conduct professional development and training for all EVE Project partners.

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The mission of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is to improve public safety by providing a continuity of appropriate treatment services in safe and secure facilities where offenders' needs are addressed and they are prepared for release, followed by supportive services under community supervision to facilitate a successful completion of their sentence. DOCCS makes a special effort to ensure that victims of crimes do not become forgotten parties in the criminal justice process. DOCCS has worked with the New York State Crime Victims Board and the DA's Office to help ensure that victims are aware of their rights with regard to the supervision process. Landmark legislation in 1994 allowed victims to meet face-to-face with a member of the Board of Parole, or to submit a written victim impact statement to the Board. Procedures have been established allowing the Board of Parole to maintain contact with victims and, at their request, keep them apprised of parole interview dates and decisions, and the release dates of the offenders who victimized them. Sentencing Reform Act of 1998, known as Jenna's Law, provided all citizens with an opportunity to call a toll-free number to receive information about inmates released to parole supervision after January 1, 1999. This toll-free service is currently a state contract with VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday, 1-888-VINE-4-NY). All on-site partners at the FJC are trained on the use of VINE, and brochures and fliers are available for FJC clients.

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Division of Parole Commitment and Responsibilities

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is responsible for the following under the FJC EVE Project:

- Supply the names and email addresses of designated DOCCS Supervisors to the EVE Project Director;
- Receive email messages from EVE Project staff alerting DOCCS to a parolee's arrest for domestic violence and the details about the arrest, and utilize that information to make decisions regarding the parolee's case;
- Collaborate with KCDA regarding how best to hold the parolee accountable on the domestic violence arrest;
- Arrange for trainings to be facilitated by the FJC Executive Director and EVE Project Director at various DOCCS offices;
- As needed, participate in the EVE Project's high risk review team; and
- Conduct professional development and training for all EVE Project partners.

New York City Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

The Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, established pursuant to Section 13 of the City Charter, is primarily the Mayor's advisor on criminal justice policy and legislation and is responsible for coordinating the activities of the City criminal justice agencies, including the NYPD, Fire Department, Department of Correction, and Department of Probation. The Criminal Justice Coordinator also serves as the City's primary liaison with the court system, the District Attorneys and the state criminal justice system, and is the official signatory and oversight authority for the Office of Justice Programs grants. These services are provided in-kind to the EVE Project.

Nonprofit, Nongovernmental Victim Advocacy Agencies

Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon is a private, nonprofit organization that provides a broad scope of services to crime victims throughout New York City. The mission of Safe Horizon is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Safe Horizon operates extensive community and court-based service programs for domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, child abuse, and assault victims, as well as survivors of homicide. These programs include 24-hour hotlines, Community Programs, Domestic Violence Shelters and a Counseling Center. In addition, Safe Horizon staff members work at police precincts to conduct critical outreach and risk management to victims of domestic violence after the police have been called to their home. In Brooklyn, Safe Horizon manages Criminal and Family Court Programs which provide an array of services to victims of crime, including crisis intervention, safety assessment and risk management planning, and assistance in completing Office of Victim

Services compensation applications. Safe Horizon's Reception Center, located in the Criminal Court, also serves as a secure and comfortable place where victims, witnesses and family members or friends may wait until they are called to appear in court. The majority of Safe Horizon's programming is directed toward domestic violence victims and therefore the organization was selected for this EVE Project, which focuses on domestic violence victims.

Safe Horizon's Commitment and Responsibilities

Safe Horizon will be responsible for providing and supervising the following staff under the EVE Project:

1) Two Non-Profit Victim Advocates – one assigned to the Brooklyn Criminal Court arraignment part and one assigned to the FJC, whose duties will be to:

- Work collaboratively with KCDA paralegals to assist in early victim outreach efforts following the arraignment of a domestic violence offender;
- Provide information and services to domestic violence victims who appear in person at the Arraignment Parts;
- When Family Court is closed, aid victims who are petitioning for a Family Court order of protection at Criminal Court;
- Link victims to services at the FJC and other programs as needed;
- Conduct a thorough and ongoing safety assessment and construct a responsive risk management plan with each victim;
- Work with domestic violence victims whose partner poses a high risk to them;
- Participate in weekly group supervision facilitated by the EVE Project Director and attended by the FJC based Safe Horizon EVE Project advocate;
- Serve as a member of the high risk review team;
- Work closely with KCDA's FJC based EVE Project paralegal to gather objective information that can be used to determine who the actual perpetrator of abuse is in a cross complaint case;
- Work closely with the FJC based paralegal to collect documents and information needed for undocumented immigrant domestic violence victims to complete a U-Visa petition;
- Use Language Line Services or the New York Relay Service to communicate with victims in their appropriate language;
- Maintain victim confidentiality and effectively explain Safe Horizon's confidentiality policies to each victim;
- Attend biweekly EVE staff meetings;
- Compile accurate and comprehensive monthly data reports.

Safe Horizon's Resource Contributions

Safe Horizon will provide the following in-kind contributions:

- Supervision of the two grant-funded nonprofit victim advocates;

- Subject to availability, expertise of the Safe Horizon leadership including the Associate Vice President of Criminal Justice Programs, the Senior Director of the Brooklyn Court Programs Manager of the Safe Horizon Brooklyn Criminal Court Program; and
- Subject to availability, participation in professional development and training for FJC EVE partners.

Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project

Safe Homes is a community based domestic violence program of Good Shepherd Services. Rooted in work that was begun by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in New York City in 1857 and incorporated in 1947, Good Shepherd Services' earliest efforts were providing residential services for vulnerable young women who could not live at home. Good Shepherd Services is now a non-sectarian, social service and youth development agency which positively affects the lives of more than 18,000 children and families annually. Started in 1976 by Good Shepherd Services, Safe Homes has been assisting survivors of domestic violence and their children for the past 30 years with services that include counseling, safety planning, support groups, legal and other advocacy, and shelter. Safe Homes has bilingual staff and has conducted all services in Spanish and English from its inception.

Safe Homes works with diverse populations. Clients come from all ethnic and religious backgrounds with approximately 30% who are African American or Caribbean, 15% White, 5% a combination of Arabic, Asian, and other, and fully 50% Latino. Latina participants represent a broad range of countries and cultures. Safe Homes is recognized as a bicultural/bilingual program serving Spanish-speaking domestic violence victims. The large number of Latina participants also reflects the population in the areas in which Safe Homes is active, including the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Park Slope, Sunset Park, Bushwick, and Red Hook. Outreach is conducted in the form of workshops for parents at daycare centers and schools, through training sessions for providers, and at tables at health fairs and street fairs where brochures and hotline cards in Spanish are distributed.

Three Safe Homes caseworkers are located on-site at the FJC. Safe Homes has collaborated throughout the years with the NYPD in providing roll call training on their services available for domestic violence victims. Safe Homes participates in KCDA's Domestic Violence Task Force and has presented on children's issues, youth dating violence, and safety planning at past KCDA Domestic Violence Conferences. Their staff participates on numerous committees together with other grant partners. Safe Homes' was selected for the EVE Project because its programming is directed specifically toward domestic violence victims, with a particular expertise in working with Spanish speaking and other foreign born domestic violence victims.

Safe Homes' Commitment and Responsibilities

Safe Homes will be responsible for providing and supervising the following staff under the EVE Project:

- 1) **One Bi-Lingual Nonprofit Victim Advocate who will:**

- Work with domestic violence victims whose partner poses a high risk to them;
- Conduct a thorough and ongoing risk assessment and construct a responsive safety plan with these and all other assigned victims;
- Participate in weekly group supervision facilitated by the EVE Project Director and attended by the FJC based Safe Horizon EVE Project advocate;
- Serve as a member of a multidisciplinary "high risk" review team;
- Work closely with KCDA's FJC based EVE Project paralegal to gather objective information that can be used to determine who the actual perpetrator of abuse is in a cross complaint case;
- Work closely with the FJC based paralegal to collect documents and information needed for domestic violence victims to complete a U-Visa petition;
- Receive domestic violence victim contact information from three high volume Brooklyn precincts (67th, 75th and 83rd) and reach out to these victims after a complaint for a non-arrestable offense had been filed against their abusive partner;
- Use Language Line Services' telephonic interpretation and the New York Relay Service to communicate with victims in their preferred language;
- Maintain victim confidentiality and effectively explain the Safe Homes Project's confidentiality policies to each victim;
- Attend biweekly EVE staff meetings;
- Compile accurate and comprehensive monthly data reports.

Safe Homes' Resource Contributions

Safe Homes will provide the following in-kind contributions:

- Supervision of the grant-funded bilingual nonprofit victim advocate;
- Provision of multilingual educational supplies, printing and postage costs; and
- Professional staff development and training.

New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP) envisions a world in which all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected people are safe, respected, and live free from violence. AVP's mission is to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education, and support survivors through counseling and advocacy. AVP was founded in 1980 in reaction to neighborhood incidents of anti-LGBTQH violence. Today, AVP provides free and confidential assistance to thousands of LGBTQH people each year from all five boroughs of New York City through direct client services and community organizing and public advocacy. In 2010-2011, AVP was named a White House Champion of Change for our work on intimate partner violence within LGBTQH communities and our Board of Directors received the Alan Morrow Prize for Board Excellence from the Stonewall Foundation. The following is a

summary of the range of services, programs and initiatives that AVP provides, and the types of violence these programs address:

Direct Client Services: AVP operates a free bilingual, 24-hour, 365-day-a-year crisis intervention hotline that is staffed by trained volunteers and our professional counselors and advocates for LGBTQH victims and survivors of any type of violence. AVP serves more than 2,800 callers a year—an average of one caller every three hours. Callers receive immediate crisis counseling and on-going short or long-term counseling and other supportive services, including police, court and social services advocacy and accompaniment. This year, AVP realized the goal of implementing community based direct services and outreach projects in all five boroughs of New York. By providing direct services in all five boroughs, AVP is able to reach everyone who needs our services where they live and to work with communities to address the issues specific to their neighborhoods. This community based approach, which allows AVP to support survivors of hate violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence within their own neighborhoods, is just the beginning of the work that AVP will do to be accessible to all LGBTQ people throughout New York City in coming years. AVP also works with clients through three distinct support groups for Hate Violence, Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence survivors which features a supportive and focused curriculum to move people from trauma to healing. AVP operates a free and confidential Legal Clinic for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence, a collaborative service between AVP, the New York Legal Assistance Group, Sanctuary for Families and the Urban Justice Center and offers free legal consultations to LGBTQH victims and survivors of domestic violence. All of AVP services are free and confidential.

Community Organizing & Public Advocacy: AVP's community organizing efforts reach more than 22,000 people each year and extend to the myriad and diverse constituencies within New York's LGBTQH communities. AVP organizes local and city-wide community and public responses to specific violent incidents throughout New York City and State and creates campaigns that raise awareness about and address LGBTQH people's safety. In addition, AVP collaborates with community leaders and community-based organizations to raise awareness about the intersection of LGBTQH identity and violence, and as described in more detail below, created a coalition of providers working on hate violence in New York City to better coordinate community response. AVP's popular *SafeBar/Safe Nights* Program in particular is designed to stop pick-up crimes and date-associated violence before it happens by working with bars and clubs to alert their patrons and staff of the dangers of pick-up crimes, distributing safety tips and encouraging reporting such incidents to AVP. Through the Speakers Bureau AVP provides education and support for former clients to share their stories to educate school and community groups and service providers about how to prevent violence, and what to do if they or someone they love is affected by anti-LGBTQ violence. Each year, through its Training and Education Institute, AVP trains more than 4,200 people at over 125 trainings with community members, police, court staff, district attorneys' offices, rape crisis centers, domestic violence agencies and other mainstream health and human service providers. AVP's Training and Education Institute also serves as a clearinghouse for the most up-to-date information, studies, articles and curricula on the issue of violence.

AVP has been a strong off-site partner of the FJC since its inception in July 2005 and an on-site partner in 2011. AVP provides training to FJC staff on best practices working with LGBT survivors, attends quarterly off-site meetings and accepts frequent referrals from FJC partner agencies for clients who identify as LGBT.

AVP's Commitment and Responsibilities

AVP will continue to collaborate with all MOU signatory agencies and provide the following services in kind, either on-site at the FJC or off-site in its home office:

- Provide confidential support and advocacy services to victims referred by the EVE Project Paralegals and Safe Horizon EVE victim advocates who identify as LGBTQ victims of domestic violence; and
- Provide training to EVE Project staff to enhance the work they do with LGBT victims.

Extent of Each Party's Participation in Developing the Application and MOU

Since the opening of the FJC in July 2005, OCDV FJC administrative staff has met regularly with KCDA Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau and Counseling Services Unit Director to develop and refine operational protocols and policies. The FJC administrative staff meets monthly with representatives of all on-site partners, including KCDA, Safe Horizon, NYPD, and Probation, and meets bi-monthly with supervisory staff from the same partner agencies. Additionally, the FJC administrative staff meets quarterly with off-site partner agencies. FJC administration, KCDA, NYPD, and Probation collaborate on providing bi-monthly, required core training for all professionals working at the FJC, and regularly participate on task force meetings. During all of these meetings and training sessions, the partners regularly discuss methods of improving domestic violence victims' access to information and services. Because of the multi-disciplinary collaboration of the FJC, the partners have a strong, pre-existing working relationship. With the implementation of the EVE Project and the development of this grant application, those relationships have strengthened.

The undersigned organizations have participated in the development of the application including the budget documents and MOU. Meetings were held that included members of each MOU partner agency. The representatives who attended these planning meetings were as follows:

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence:

Tracy Weber-Thomas, Assistant Commissioner for Administration

Jennifer DeCarli, Executive Director, New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn

Anne Patterson, EVE Project Director, New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn

Kings County District Attorney's Office

Wanda Lucibello, Chief, Special Victims Division

Deborah Cohen, First Deputy Bureau Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau

Sarah McGrath, Director, Victim Services Unit

Agostino Bianco, EVE Project DA Coordinator

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NYC Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator:
Nicholas O'Brien-Gorman, Grant Coordinator

Safe Horizon:
Louise Voccoli, Senior Director, Brooklyn Court Programs
Ashley Wright, Manager, Brooklyn Criminal Court Program

Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project:
Catherine Hodes, Program Director

New York City Anti-Violence Project:
Catherine Shugrue dos Santos, Deputy Director in charge of Client Services

New York City Police Department:
Kathleen O'Reilly, Inspector, Office of the Chief of Department, Domestic Violence Unit

New York City Department of Probation:
Adrienne Henry, Domestic Violence Coordinator

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Mary Smith, Brooklyn Regional Director

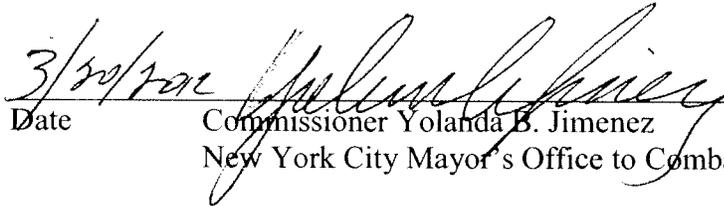
Planning and Implementation Team

OCDV will implement the EVE Project in collaboration with KCDA, NYPD, Probation, Parole, Safe Horizon, Safe Homes and AVP. The EVE Project Director will be responsible for overall project administration and oversight, and will report to the FJC Executive Director. The KCDA Coordinator will send data to the EVE Project Director and will be supervised by KCDA Victim Services Unit Director.

We, the undersigned representatives of the partner organizations or agencies, agree to engage in short-term and long-term planning to assure the continuing development and sustainability of the EVE Project established to increase contact with domestic violence victims at the earliest stage after a domestic violence incident has occurred. All partners will promote the safety of domestic violence victims while working to hold the offenders accountable. Each partner will participate as outlined in the agency Commitments and Responsibilities sections.

All partners agree to share information regarding the EVE Project victims with one another to the extent permitted by law, with the objective of keeping the victim safe by providing efficient and coordinated assistance. Except as required by law, no representative of any agency or organization will be asked to divulge information provided by the victim without the victim's consent. All agencies agree to respect, in the appropriate circumstances, the choices and opinions of the victim. All EVE Project partners will maintain the confidentiality of all records and files, except as required by law.

Further, we indicate approval of the proposed Project Budget.

3/20/12

Date Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez
New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

Date District Attorney Charles J. Hynes
Office of the Kings County District Attorney

3/20/2012

Date Criminal Justice Coordinator John Feinblatt
New York City Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

Date Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
New York City Police Department

Date Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi
New York City Department of Probation

Date Commissioner Brian Fischer
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Date Ariel Zwang, Chief Executive Officer
Safe Horizon, Inc.

Date Sharon Stapel, Executive Director
New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

Date Sister Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project

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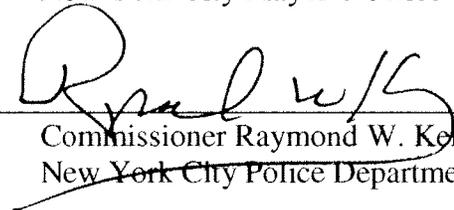
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3/22/12 

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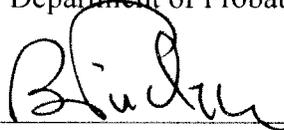
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New York City Department of Probation

3/13/12



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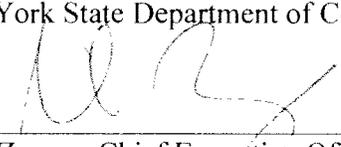
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New York City Police Department

Date Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi
New York City Department of Probation

Date Commissioner Brian Fischer
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

5/24/12 

Date Ariel Zwang, Chief Executive Officer
Safe Horizon, Inc.

Date Sharon Stapel, Executive Director
New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

Date Sister Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project

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NYC Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

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New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

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Office of the Kings County District Attorney

Date Criminal Justice Coordinator John Feinblatt
New York City Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator

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New York City Police Department

Date Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi
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Date Commissioner Brian Fischer
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Date Ariel Zwang, Chief Executive Officer
Safe Horizon, Inc.

3/19/2012 
Date Sharon Stapel, Executive Director
New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

Date Sister Paulette LaMonaco, Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project

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03/19/12 *Al LoMonaco*
Date Sister Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project