



City and County of San Francisco  
**Department on the Status of Women**



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Mayor

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**San Francisco secures 1 million dollars to improve service connection for domestic violence victims who are at high risk of lethality.**

*This award will address lethality assessment, prosecution, victim services, data sharing, and in-depth review of domestic violence-related deaths in San Francisco.*

**San Francisco, CA** – The Department on the Status of Women is proud to announce that it has been awarded 1 million dollars in funding from the Office of Violence Against Women to continue work on eradicating contributing factors to domestic violence, specifically working on improving the City and County's response to high lethality cases.

Over the course of three years, this new award funds the expansion of the Lethality Assessment Program citywide. Additionally, this grant incorporates a racial equity lens to improve outreach and services to survivors who are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence, such as the Black/African American and Latinx communities in San Francisco. The Department on the Status of women has successfully been awarded this competitive funding twice before, once in 2015 and subsequently in 2018.

"Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence is pleased to be able to provide domestic abuse outreach services and prevention directly to the Black community as a result of this grant. We look forward to providing culturally responsive services to Black intimate partner violence survivors in order to reduce current barriers that they are experiencing. Our focus will be on supporting Black families and helping them to move towards safety," said Pamela Tate, Co-Director Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence.

This grant will include the citywide deployment of the evidence-based Lethality Assessment Program, with police officers being trained on indicators to assess the risk of homicide and link high-risk victims to immediate crisis intervention services to all stations. The second component conducts quarterly Death Review Team meetings to identify and review domestic violence deaths, including homicides and

suicides and facilitate communication among the various agencies involved in domestic violence cases.

During the first year (FY 18) of the San Francisco's Bayview Domestic Violence High-Risk Pilot Program officers implemented the Lethality Assessment Tool based on Dr. Jackie Campbell's Danger Assessment to which 55% of victims screened in as high risk. While on scene, the officers who identified survivors as high-risk were immediately connected to a domestic violence advocate for safety planning and other support services. The Lethality Assessment Program in Bayview District Station has experienced ongoing success in better identifying victims at high-risk of death or serious injury, connecting them to services and following up with the most at-risk cases.

While the Program has demonstrated numerous successes, gaps are still present in responding to domestic violence in San Francisco, including the need for a citywide process to identify risk factors in domestic violence cases, as well as the lack of domestic violence resources located in the communities that need them the most.

"We know from our experience responding 24 hours a day to calls across the Bayview District that expanding the Lethality Assessment Program across San Francisco will increase safety for victims of domestic violence. It allows for a trauma-informed intervention at a pivotal moment in a survivor's experience," said Kathy Black- Executive Director, La Casa de Las Madres

The Department on the Status of women leads this grant project in collaboration with Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, La Casa de las Madres, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Adult Probation and San Francisco District Attorney's office.

A specialized subunit of the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit will prosecute perpetrators in cases where the victim is at high-risk. This Unit will serve as a liaison for identifying victims at high-risk of lethality, inform the police department about victim safety concerns and develop specialized advocates to address urgent victim needs.

Community based outreach and education will be emphasized through the efforts of Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence (BWRADV), who will conduct such efforts to Black women and other underserved communities about all options to access safety in domestic violence cases. Outreach strategies include, but are not limited to, community events and social gatherings, presentations in community meetings, presentations to community providers or professional cultural humility training, and informational sharing and outreach within BWRADV Resource Center services, along with La Casa de las Madres who provide community-based domestic violence victim services.

“As one of the most progressive and innovative cities in the world, San Francisco must continue to lead the country in ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable populations. Our department is committed to expanding our programmatic impact to better ensure the health and safety of diverse populations of women, girls and non-binary people. Through the continuation of this grant, we will work to establish targeted mechanisms that further examine contributing factors and gaps in service connection, to more effectively prevent domestic violence related homicides,” said Kimberly Ellis, Director of San Francisco’s Department on the Status of Women

Director Ellis continued, “The Department on the Status of women is committed to ensuring that our criminal justice and domestic violence response systems continue to improve their responsiveness to high-risk victims. These funds are an essential resource to ensure that the system does not fail the most at-risk survivors of domestic violence. With the guidance of our Family Violence Council and these OVW funds, we can continue to challenge ourselves to ensure victims are safe and improve the quality of life for women throughout San Francisco.”

Survivors of domestic violence or those concerned for a loved one who need assistance can contact the following:

- If an emergency: call 911.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- StrongHearts Native Helpline: 1-844-762-8483
- CalHOPE Red Line: Call: 1-888-368-4090, Text: 916-252-5002
- W.O.M.A.N., Inc. Crisis Line: 415-864-4722
- La Casa de las Madres: Adult Line 1-877-503-1850, Teen Line 1-877-923-0700
- Asian Women's Shelter Crisis Line: 1-877-751-0880
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Riley Center Crisis Line: 415-255-0165
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO) – 415-567-6255

Local resources for survivors of domestic violence can be found at:

<https://sfgov.org/dosw/violence-against-women-prevention-and-intervention-grants-program-0>

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