

Women's Resource Center Legal Advocacy Project

Cooperative Purchasing

Would you be willing to extend the pricing from any contract that may result from this bid to other V.A.L.U.E/WAPP members of local government entities in the Wisconsin area?

YES NO

Compliance to the scope of Work 25

Criteria

A. Public Health-oriented understanding of community safety.

Women's Resource Center of Racine, Inc. (WRC) is proposing Legal Advocacy and legal support for victims/survivors and potential victims of domestic violence. WRC believes that domestic violence is a public health and community concern. In line with public health approaches to community violence, effective care for victims and survivors of domestic violence is multi-disciplinary. The focus of WRC's work and this proposal:

- Serves ***those individuals at highest risk for experiencing community and interpersonal violence.***

Victims and survivors of domestic violence remain at high risk for experiencing subsequent episodes of violence unless they make changes to their own lives and are lack the necessary support and guidance to do so. Survivors face numerous barriers to breaking the cycle of violence for themselves and their children and unless removed, survivors may return to abusers or enter into other violent relationships to face further revictimization. Legal intervention is frequently required.

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The proposed services are *informed by and respond to the impact of trauma on individuals and the broader community in historically underinvested communities.*

Legal services are trauma sensitive and culturally appropriate. Domestic violence results in trauma, with ongoing abuse imposing trauma for extended periods of time. During the past calendar year WRC provided shelter and services to 350+ individuals. 27% of outreach participants were black/African American, 26% were white, 10% were more than one race, 7% were Hispanic, 1.5% were Native American, <1% were of Asian descent, and 32% were unknown or did not report racial information. All the shelter residents reported income that placed them below federal poverty levels. Individuals of color, and those experiencing poverty are disproportionately over-represented at WRC. WRC serves Racine County's most marginalized individuals.

- The purpose of all services and programs offered by WRC are to *promote healing and resiliency in the targeted population.*

After ensuring safety, the primary focus of services at WRC is to promote healing and resiliency. Addressing legal situations is one step on the path to healing. Empowerment fosters resiliency, and resiliency permits a future free from violence.

- Through information and education, *promote community ownership of safety outcomes in residents and neighborhoods.*

A primary function of WRC is to provide community education and information about the insidious and dangerous nature of domestic violence.

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B. Community Safety Priorities

- The focus of this proposal is **Intimate Partner Violence**.

Interpersonal abuse has a devastating impact on families and the community. Domestic violence intervention and prevention **is** a matter of life and death.

- This proposal also explores the **disproportionate impact of violence on some groups and communities**.

The target community will be victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or other interpersonal violence who are in need of consultation regarding legal matters. The majority of these individuals will be low-income women, and a significant percentage will be individuals of color. Domestic abuse impacts women and especially low-income women disproportionately due to a variety of circumstances. These women lack the resources and access to services available to other populations.

Qualifications and Experience 20

Women's Resource Center of Racine, Inc. (WRC) is the only dedicated full-spectrum provider of emergency and supportive services for victims/survivors of domestic violence in Racine County. WRC also offers shelter to survivors of sexual assault (in collaboration with BeLeaf) and human trafficking (in collaboration with Fight to End Exploitation).

Women's Resource Center of Racine is an active participant in the Racine Violent Crime Reduction Initiative. WRC serves as the voice of victims and survivors in this group and provides the group with domestic violence education and local statistics and demographics. Through this collaboration, WRC also offers its SafeStart, teen dating violence prevention

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program in local Community Oriented Policing Houses. Intervention and education at young ages is key to breaking the cycle of violence.

Women's Resource Center was formed in 1977 by a group of concerned citizens who recognized that domestic violence was dangerous, and women (then the primary focus) needed safety and shelter if they were to escape the throes of abuse. WRC was incorporated in 1980 and has continuously provided programs, services, outreach and community awareness. Over the years, it was determined that victims of domestic violence needed much more than a safe place to stay. Advocacy was always part of the program and remains a mainstay today. WRC offers advocacy, counseling support, safety planning, housing search assistance and anything else needed to assist survivors in breaking the cycle of violence and becoming safe and independent. Victims of domestic violence often find themselves with legal entanglements and/or the need to pursue legal interventions to ensure the future safety of themselves and their children. Obtaining restraining orders is often a priority when individuals leave or are attempting to leave an abusive situation. Child support, child custody, separation/divorce, eviction, small claims court, driver license reinstatement, and other legally related situations may present barriers to developing safety and stability. Since the 1980s WRC has always provided some form of legal advocacy and is at a position where the need for additional enhanced services is required. WRC offers services to any member of the community who is experiencing interpersonal abuse, even those not residing in shelter.

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Respondent Approach to Providing Services 20

To ensure that victims and survivors of intimate violence receive legal advocacy and assistance in seeking legal services, WRC employs individuals knowledgeable of the legal procedures and systems encountered by potential victims and survivors of domestic violence. Services are available to WRC residents, by referral from other providers, and by self-referral. Funding will support a Legal Advocate and a Legal Specialist between June 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Current resources for legal advocacy are inadequate.

Victims and survivors of domestic or other interpersonal violence face many barriers to rising above the trauma inflicted upon them and find it difficult to traverse the legal system when necessary. Impoverished women, and women of color are overrepresented in domestic violence shelters and programs. They are least likely to trust the legal system, and may need information, support and encouragement to take necessary and important steps. Addressing legal concerns opens the door to continued healing and building stable, safe and independent lives. This trauma sensitive, survivor driven project promotes breaking the cycle of violence, sparing entire families from revictimization and devastation.

This program ensures that those already impacted and devastated by domestic violence, or its potential victims have access to legal services that protect them from further revictimization and violence. Two mainstays of providing care for survivors of domestic violence are trauma informed practices and Motivational Interviewing. Both approaches are evidence-based and are known to be effective in working with survivors of violence because they take into consideration the lived experiences of the victims, prevent re-traumatization, and put the client at the center of the decisions being made to secure their future safety. Legal advocacy

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can serve as a buffer between the “black and white” nature of the law and the raw emotions of victims.

The Legal Advocate and Legal Specialist assist survivors with their legal needs. The purpose of this proposal is to provide expanded more robust services to WRC residents and to other members of the community. The legal advocacy program assists survivors with paperwork, refers them for formal legal services, accompanies them to court, and explains the legal process and outcomes. Obtaining restraining orders can save lives, obtaining deserved child support and benefits supports children and is life-sustaining. Divorcing and resolving custody disputes clears the path for future stability. Having driver licenses reinstated improves chances for employment and decreases the possibility of additional legal action. Addressing legal matters alleviates stress. Testifying against an abuser is empowering. Using the legal system to their advantage puts survivors in control of their lives.

The legal services team will be instrumental in reestablishing the Family Violence Task Force. It was important in making positive changes in the approach to domestic violence in the community.

Services will be available to those residing at WRC, those who contact WRC specifically for Legal Advocacy, to those residing at Bethany Apartments, those receiving services from Fight to End Exploitation, SAFE Haven of Racine, Transitional Living Center or those who have experienced sexual assault.

Respondent description of how funds will be budgeted for use 15

WRC anticipates serving a minimum of 150 survivors of domestic violence during the six-month award period. WRC is requesting \$41,403.50 to support Legal Advocacy Services. We are

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requesting \$21,840 dollars in salary for the Legal Advocate for the six-month award period. The Legal Advocate will work 30 hours per week and will be paid \$28.00 per hour. \$3,276. dollars will pay taxes and benefits for the position. The Legal Specialist will assist the Legal Advocate working 20 hours per week for the grant period at a rate of \$22.00 per hour for a total of \$11,440.00. \$1,716.00 will pay taxes and benefits for the position. Cell phone services for these positions will cost \$320 for the six-month period. We anticipate that there will be \$300 expended on miscellaneous supplies. The position will require travel to court, to clients and to other agencies and we have budgeted \$127.50 to cover 250 miles at \$.51 each. We are requesting 3 hours a week of supervision for this position at \$30.00 per hour or \$2,340 for six months for a total of \$41,403.50

Budget Proposal – Separate Document 10

Prior Experience and familiarity of required services 5

Women's Resource Center has vast experience is implementing and administering grant awards of this nature. Since the 1980's WRC has received ongoing State assistance from the Department of Children and families to operate its emergency shelter and victim services. It is the current recipient of Wisconsin Department of Justice funding to support a Holistic Healing program and services. WRC is also a long-time recipient of City Emergency Solutions grant funding and State homelessness funding awards. Additionally, WRC has received private funding from foundations (Racine Community Foundation, Otto Bremer Trust, Webb Family Fund, etc.) corporate funders and the United Way of Racine County.

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If awarded funding for this proposal, WRC recognizes its responsibilities and obligations. WRC will implement and carry out programming, will submit monthly progress and financial reports and comply with all WCSF requirements.

This program will be an enhancement and expansion of already existing legal advocacy services. The funds presently available hinder the number of victims and survivors that can be served. WRC has been providing legal advocacy services in some capacity since the 1980s. This proposal will fund a Legal Advocate and a Legal Specialist. These positions coordinate legal services for victims and survivors. Katie Bolander, J.D. presently serves in the capacity of Legal Advocate. Current funding is ending and provides for only limited access to services. WRC's current Legal Advocate has been providing legal advocacy in some capacity since her graduation from law school. The current Executive Director provided legal advocacy services in the past, and WRC's CFO is a licensed attorney who worked in the criminal, juvenile and family courts, and is available to advise the program.

WRC is fortunate to have someone with legal education in the position although she is not a licensed attorney. The Legal Advocate works closely with Legal Action of Wisconsin personnel to ensure that documents are completed and that survivors are adequately prepared to appear in court, regardless of the reason. The Legal Advocate also serves as a liaison to private attorneys, the District Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Assistance Program and law enforcement agencies. In addition to assisting in the preparation of restraining orders, aiding survivors with child support, child custody and other legal concerns, the Legal Advocate informs and educates survivors about the legal justice system, what they can expect from their involvement in legal proceedings. Additionally, the Legal Advocate will provide

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training to agency staff and to other community members regarding the legal aspects of domestic violence and will coordinate the Racine County Family Violence Coalition. This position reports to the Executive Director.

Knowledge of the City of Racine 5

Having provided services in the city of Racine for 47 years, WRC knows the city and its resources well. WRC has numerous community partners through its relationship and activity with the local Continuum of Care, and its member partners who serve vulnerable populations. This proposal provides additional opportunities for partnership regarding Legal Advocacy services. Bethany Apartments, Fight to End Exploitation, SAFE Haven of Racine, Transitional Living Center, BeLeaf will all be invited to refer clients for Legal Advocacy. It is likely that HOPES Center, Racine Vocational Ministry and others may have clients appropriate for services. Efforts will be made to partner with the Marquette Law School, to provide interns and support.

END OF SCOPE OF SERVICES

3. References

As a part of properly completing the bid, provide the names, addresses, phone numbers and contact persons for a minimum of two companies or municipalities for which the bidder has satisfactorily performed related work within the past five (5) years.

Company Name: Racine Community Foundation

Address: 1135 Warwick Way, Racine, WI 53403

Contact Person: Liz Powell

Phone Number: 262 632-8474

E-mail: liz.powell@racinecommunityfoundation.org

Company Name: United Way of Racine County

Address: 2000 Domanik Dr., Racine, WI 53404

Contact Person: Jessica Safransky-Schacht

Phone Number: 262 898-2240

E-mail: jsafransky@unitedwayracine.org

BIDDER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that all statements herein are made in behalf of:

Women's Resource Center of Racine, Inc.

Name of Corporation, Partnership or Person submitting bid
a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of: s

a partnership consisting of: _____

an individual trading as: _____

of the City of Racine _____ State of Wisconsin

that I have examined and carefully prepared this proposal from the

plans and specifications and have checked the same in detail before

submitting this proposal; that I have full authority to make such statements

and submit this proposal in its (their) behalf, and that said statements are true and correct

SIGNATURE: _____

Joelle Chambers

TITLE : Interim Executive Director

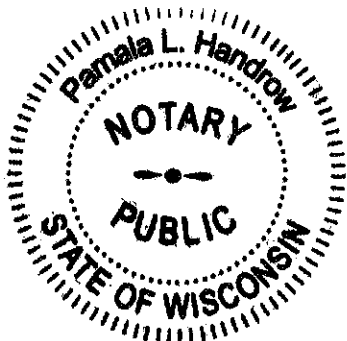
Sworn and subscribed to before me

this 5th day of June 2024.

Pamala L Handrow

(Notary or other officer authorized to administer oaths)

SEAL:



My commission expires _____

Permanent

City of Racine
Purchasing Department
 730 Washington Ave Room 105
 Racine, Wisconsin 53403
 www.cityofracine.org/purchasing



Office: (262) 636-9143
 Fax: (262) 636-9100
Purchasing@cityofracine.org

RFP ADDENDUM #1

To:	Notice to all Respondents
From:	Purchasing Agent
Solicitation:	Official Notice #6-2024 Community Violence Prevention Providers
Addendum Issued:	May 20, 2024
RFP Response Due Date:	June 6, 2024 at 10:00AM CST via DemandStar

The purpose of this Addendum is to modify the Request for Proposal (RFP) as set forth in this addendum. All requirements of the proposal documents remain unchanged except as cited herein. Information contained in this Addendum will be included in any subsequent contractual agreement between the City and the successful respondent(s).

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The following provides additional clarity for "Maximum of 500 words":

Section: Scope of Work

Sub-Section: Submission

Description of Change: Modify language to read - Maximum of 500 words "per evaluation criteria section."

Acknowledgment of Addendum

(To be returned with your response)

I, Jori Chambers, as an authorized representative of
Women's Resource Center have received this Addendum, I fully
 understand and will comply with all the information contained within this Notice.

Signed: Jori Chambers Date: 6/5/24

City of Racine
Purchasing Department
 730 Washington Ave Room 105
 Racine, Wisconsin 53403
www.cityofracine.org/purchasing



Office: (262) 636-9198
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RFP ADDENDUM #2

To:	Notice to all Respondents
From:	Purchasing Agent
Solicitation:	Official Notice #6-2024 Community Violence Prevention Providers
Addendum Issued:	May 24, 2024
RFP Response Due Date:	June 6, 2024 at 10:00AM CST via DemandStar

The purpose of this Addendum is to clarify questions received from Proposers. All requirements of the proposal documents remain unchanged except as cited herein. Information contained in this Addendum will be included in any subsequent contractual agreement between the City and the successful respondent(s).

Question 1: The grant submission deadline is June 6, but it mentions that questions related to the grant are due by May 22nd. Could you confirm what specific questions this refers to?

Answer: After reviewing the Request for Proposal (RFP), any questions or need for clarity that potential proposers have about anything outlined within the RFP should be submitted to the designated email by the deadline.

Question 2: Is there a previous grant proposal that is of public record that could be referenced for formatting and content purposes?

Answer: We're unable to reference another grant for formatting/content purpose. However, a more specific request for data can be submitted through the City's open records process.

Question 3: The RFP states the contract term is June 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Please clarify whether all project activities will need to be completed and funds spent by December 31, 2024.

Answer: The contract period covers the time for which funds are eligible to be expended, therefore, project activities should be concluded well before December 31, 2024.

Question 4: The RFP states the final invoice, data and project report must be submitted no later than December 1, 2024. Please clarify how final invoicing, data and reporting can be done 30 days prior to the end of the contract.

Answer: Final invoice, data and project report must be submitted no later than December 1, 2024 to allow us to process invoice payments and complete reporting to the granting authority in a timely manner. For December, this information can be submitted based on planned activities and/or work that is sure to take place.

Question: Is it 500 words each for each evaluation criteria, for example 500 for compliance and another 500 for qualifications & experience, etc...?

Answer: Yes.

Acknowledgment of Addendum

(To be returned with your Proposal)

I Jori Chambers, as an authorized representative of Women's Resource Center have received this Addendum, I fully understand and will comply with all the information contained within this Notice.

Signed: Jori Chambers Date: 6/5/24