

## Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina 2023 General Support

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*Human Service (for 2023) opens 4/15/22*

### ***Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties***

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Akron, OH 44305

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### ***Ms Kate Robbins***

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Akron, OH 44305

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# Application Form

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## *LOI Details Carried Forward*

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### Primary Organization Name

Please enter your organization's legal name.

You can click on the Guidestar Logo to pull this info in from your Guidestar profile or enter the information manually.

### Project Name\*

This is your response from the LOI form.

Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina 2023 General Support

### LOI Amount Requested

\$10,000.00

### Recommended Amount for Application

This is the amount the Reinberger Foundation Board is willing to consider.

\$10,000.00

### LOI Term of Project

This was the term (in months) of the original LOI request.

12

### Recommended Term

This is the term the Reinberger Foundation Board is willing to consider.

12

## *Expanded Details*

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### Project Description

This is shared from your LOI form.

In 2021, BWS's Summit County Domestic Violence shelter served 22 clients from Cuyahoga County. All shelter clients receive daily resources, support, and encouragement—celebrating each step taken towards reaching self-sufficiency and a life free from abuse. The average length of stay for each client is 42 days, and a shelter night costs approximately \$39.05 each night per client for the agency, estimating \$36,000 of our shelter resources were dedicated to clients from Cuyahoga County in 2021. BWS anticipates serving more clients from Cuyahoga County in 2022 than in the previous two years, as the shelter returns to full capacity. A contribution from The Reinberger Foundation would contribute significantly to BWS' ability to serve the clients from Cuyahoga County at a time when BWS has experienced severe federal funding cuts, while simultaneously anticipating an increase in need for shelter services.

Fleeing one's home, coupled with the threat of future violence, is traumatic. In addition to physical injury, many survivors experience anxiety, depression, self-blame, embarrassment, fear, and economic instability. Fortunately, BWS's specially trained staff, interns, and volunteers are available to provide the special attention and compassion to meet the varying needs of each survivor. Staff adhere to and employ practices grounded in Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) Promising Practices: Standards for Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs and Trauma-Informed Care. When survivors make the brave decision to pick up the phone and call our 24-hr crisis hotline, these principles prepare staff, interns, and volunteers to answer each hotline call with compassion, cultural and linguistic sensitivity to our diverse clients' needs, and knowledge of community resources. For those who determine shelter is their best option to keep themselves and their children safe, our staff is available to provide each adult and child with support, empathy, and comfort while addressing their basic needs and safety.

BWS measures its successes both quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitative statistics measure the number of clients served and their self-identified demographics while a voluntary and anonymous qualitative client feedback survey measures satisfaction with services and knowledge gained through the program. Upon program exit, adult survivors may complete the anonymous client feedback survey measuring qualitative data relative to safety planning, community resources, rights, program accessibility, and satisfaction.

Specifically, this program's goals for 2022 are:

1. Provide a minimum of 650 survivors with protective shelter, basic human needs, and the resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency through the Summit & Medina Shelter programs (survivors come from throughout the state, including Cuyahoga County) between 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.
2. A minimum of 92% of adult survivors will report on an anonymous client feedback survey that they now have more strategies for enhancing their safety during or following stays in our Protective Shelter Program from 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.
3. A minimum of 92% of adult survivors will report on an anonymous client feedback survey that they have an increased awareness of community resources available to help them achieve self-sufficiency following stays in our Protective Shelter Program from 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.

## Additional details you need to share

If you felt constrained by the initial application you may provide additional details. If your initial application (LOI) provided the information we need on the project, do not feel it necessary to give us practice with our reading!

The emotional turmoil that individuals experience when leaving an abusive relationship is often traumatic. In addition to physical injury, many victims experience anxiety, depression, self-blame, embarrassment, and fear. BWS's specially trained staff, interns, and volunteers meet the varying needs of each victim using practices grounded in Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) Promising Practices: Standards for Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs (2015). These principles provide staff with the tools needed to deliver meaningful services to victims. BWS staff complete 40 hours of specialized domestic violence training prior to working with victims. This training prepares staff to provide the support and information that victims need when they make the brave decision to call our 24-hr Crisis Hotline, enter protective shelter, or seek out any of BWS's crisis intervention services. BWS staff provide victims with the tools needed to overcome trauma and plan for safety, through the following crisis intervention services:

- a) 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: Specially trained staff are available 24 hours a day/7 days a week to provide victims with crisis intervention, inform callers of their rights, offer shelter services, schedule appointments, and provide support, options, and information.
- b) Emergency Shelter: BWS operates emergency (immediate) protective shelter and crisis intervention to any victim and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. Shelters are accessible to any victim, regardless of demographic, including adult males and persons with limited mobility.
- c) Transitional Shelter: BWS operates transitional (longer-term) protective shelter to any victim and their children who have fled domestic violence. Shelters are accessible to any victim, regardless of demographic.
- d) Rapid Rehousing: BWS provides rental assistance, supportive services, and crisis intervention to rapidly house victims and their children, who are homeless due to fleeing domestic violence, into their own safe and stable permanent housing.
- e) Case Management: Specially trained staff provide in-person crisis intervention, information, resources, and education on topics such as: securing employment, obtaining benefits, budgeting, healthy coping skills, the legal process, safety planning, victim rights, victim compensation, and other community resources.
- f) Support Groups: Specially trained staff provide confidential group crisis intervention in its shelters and throughout the community focusing on topics, such as: i) Self-Care and Healthy Coping Skills ii) Community Resources iii) Understanding Power and Control iv) Trauma related to Domestic Violence v) Red Flags of an Abusive Relationships vi) Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- g) Youth Advocacy: Specially trained staff plan field trips, birthday and holiday parties, group activities, and provide age-appropriate crisis intervention, information on healthy relationships, healthy coping skills, etc. for youth residing in shelter.
- h) Justice System Advocacy: Specially trained staff help victims understand their rights and the processes of the legal system, provide crisis intervention, facilitate communication between the victim and justice system personnel, accompany victims to court hearings, assist with victim impact statements, connect victims to legal resources, provide support and education on the process when filing police reports, and provide survivors with information and support throughout the legal process.
- i) Individualized Safety Planning: Specially trained staff provide crisis intervention and help each victim plan for their safety using personalized strategies that work best for them and their individual situation, such as: providing phones pre-set to call only 911, leaving one's home safely, entering shelter, safety in court, work, or school, etc.
- j) Specialized Services for Underserved Populations: Using language interpreters when needed, specially trained staff provide crisis intervention, culturally-appropriate education, safety plans, resources, etc. to underserved populations (e.g., Limited English Proficient, LGBT, Persons with Disabilities, Geographically Isolated, etc.)

## Executive Summary\*

Share briefly the need and action to be taken if this request was funded.

Deaths due to domestic violence have increased by 62% in Ohio according to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. As a result of the increased severity in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence exacerbated by challenging economic and social conditions, demand for BWS' services is at an all-time high. BWS is the largest domestic violence shelter in the state of Ohio, and now that public health restrictions have lifted, the agency anticipates serving more clients from Cuyahoga County in 2022 than in the previous two years in the 154-bed shelter based in Akron. BWS ensures survivors can access the 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, and an array of comprehensive services 7 days/week, 365 days/year. Given the urgency and demand for BWS' services, we respectfully requests \$10,000 from The Reinberger Foundation to support the ongoing core services to survivors and co-survivors of domestic violence, especially as BWS serves as a key resource for residents from Cuyahoga County seeking emergency protective shelter outside of their county of residence. Funds will support the costs of providing protective shelter and wrap-around services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Generous funding will allow BWS to continue being a source for shelter, support, and healing for residents of Cuyahoga County.

## Goals

### Project Goals\*

What are the goals of this request? Please be as specific as possible as this will be referenced in your reporting back to us.

If the request is for General Operating Support. Please share the current organization goals for the term of the request.

The 2022 program goals are:

1. Provide a minimum of 650 survivors with protective shelter, basic human needs, and the resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency through the Summit & Medina Shelter programs (survivors come from throughout the state, including Cuyahoga County) between 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.
2. A minimum of 92% of adult survivors will report on an anonymous client feedback survey that they now have more strategies for enhancing their safety during or following stays in our Protective Shelter Program from 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.
3. A minimum of 92% of adult survivors will report on an anonymous client feedback survey that they have an increased awareness of community resources available to help them achieve self-sufficiency following stays in our Protective Shelter Program from 01/01/22 – 12/31/22.

### Measurement of your goals\*

Do you have the ability to measure achievement of your goals?

(E.g., a survey of clients served. If this is a challenge based on the nature of your request, please speak to this here.)

Self-identified demographic data is recorded by staff for each client. When it is safe and appropriate to do so, survivors are asked to complete a voluntary anonymous client satisfaction survey at the time of program exit. The survey measures qualitative data relative to satisfaction with services, knowledge of victims' rights,

safety, assistance with immediate needs, community resources and information, and more. BWS utilizes Excel spreadsheets and Osnum software to track and measure data.

## ***Required attachments***

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### **Most recent Audit\***

If you do not perform an audit, please explain and provide your most recent 990.

Battered Women's Shelter FS 12.31.2020 FINAL.pdf

The 2021 audit is in progress, but attached you will find our 2020 audit.

### **List of your Board Members\***

upload a document

08.2022 BWS Board of Directors, Affiliations, & Key Staff.pdf

### **Additional Funders for this request**

Others providing support for this project. Not required for GOS. You may upload a document.

### **Optional Attachment, Annual Report**

*[Unanswered]*

### **Auditor's Management Letter**

Please provide your Auditor's letter to the organization's management.

Battered Women's Shelter SAS 114 Letter 12.31.2020.pdf

## ***Financial Review - INTERNAL***

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### **Guidestar Charity Check Run?\***

Yes

### **Review of financials complete?\***

Yes

## Additional comments on Financials

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Battered Women's Shelter FS 12.31.2020 FINAL.pdf
- 08.2022 BWS Board of Directors, Affiliations, & Key Staff.pdf
- Battered Women's Shelter SAS 114 Letter 12.31.2020.pdf