



Helping Children of Domestic Violence

Request for Proposals

Data from a 1995 Gallup Poll on family violence suggests that up to 3.3 million children witness or experience parental domestic violence each year.¹ Although this statistic is staggering, children are often the invisible victims of domestic violence. Historically, programs for domestic violence and programs for child abuse have not intersected, either programmatically or through funding sources. However, in a national survey of more than 6,000 families, researchers found that 50 percent of men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently assaulted their children² and research indicates that 30 to 60 percent of families experiencing child maltreatment also experience domestic violence.³

For those children who are witnesses to domestic violence but may not have experienced direct abuse, the potential for the experience to have a negative impact on the child's future is elevated. Studies have found that:

- 80 to 90 percent of children living in homes with domestic violence are aware of the violence.⁴
- A significant risk factor for becoming a child abuser, domestic violence perpetrator, and violent juvenile offender is having been abused and/or a witness of violence at home.⁵
- Research has found that men who as children witness their parents' domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own wives than sons of nonviolent parents.⁶
- Close to 70 percent of the girls involved in the juvenile justice systems have histories of physical abuse.⁷
- Between 1993 and 1998, 45 percent of all female victims of domestic violence lived in households with children under the age of 12.⁸

It is important to ensure that the child victims of domestic violence receive the guidance, support and services necessary to allow them to become survivors, to break the cycle of violence and to thrive as healthy adults.

¹ Gallup, G. H., Jr., Moor, D.W., and Schussel, R. (1997). *Disciplining Children in America*. Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Organization.

² M.A. Straus and R. Gelles, *Physical Violence in American Families*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, (1996).

³ Edelson, J.L. (1999). "Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 14(8): pp. 839-870.

⁴ M.A. Straus and R. Gelles, *Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980)

⁵ Daro, D., and Cohn Donnelly, A. (2000). *Child Abuse Prevention: Accomplishments and Challenges*.

⁶ Straus, Murray A., Gelles, Richard J., and Smith, Christine (1990). *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

⁷ Owen, B. and Bloom, B. (1997) "Profiling the Needs of Young Female Offenders." *Report to the Executive Staff of the California Youth Authority*. Sacramento, CA: California Youth Authority.

⁸ J.L. Edleson, "The Overlap Between Child Maltreatment and Woman Battering," *Violence Against Women* 5, no. 2 (February 1999)

Purpose

The Avon Foundation is seeking proposals from non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs that assist children who have been exposed to domestic violence. Programs sought include:

- 1) Coordinated response models between domestic violence agencies and child abuse agencies,
- 2) Counseling and mentoring programs for child witnesses and victims of domestic violence.

All program models must have the capacity to be replicated in other communities and cities. It is advantageous if non-profit organizations and agencies already have in place plans and contacts to replicate their program models in other communities and cities.

Qualifying Organizations

The Avon Foundation makes grants only to organizations having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation does not contribute to the following:

- Individuals
- Memberships
- Political causes or candidates
- Religious organizations
- Veterans organizations
- Fraternal organizations
- Fundraising events, telethons, marathons or races
- Journal advertisements

Grant Amounts

Grant amounts range from \$10,000 - \$50,000 depending on the size, scope and impact of the program proposed. Please include an amount that your organization believes is reflective of the needs of the program when submitting a proposal.

Grants are non-renewable. However, an organization may submit a new proposal the following year for continued funding. The Avon Foundation will only support organizations through the *Helping Children of Domestic Violence* program for a maximum of three years.

Deadline Date and Application Cycle

Letter of inquiries are not required. However, if your organization is uncertain if its eligibility for the *Helping Children of Domestic Violence* RFP, letters of inquiry can be sent to ascertain whether the Avon Foundation will have an interest in the program. Letters of inquiry must be submitted prior to March 10.

If you are confident that your organization meets the purpose of the *Helping Children of Domestic Violence* RFP, please submit only the proposal. The deadline date for proposals is **April 1st**.

Responses to proposal submissions will be sent by September 15.

Proposals

Proposals will be accepted from organizations across the United States. There is no application form. Organizations should send in a proposal that follows the guidelines below. Final proposals should be concise, and provide evidence of strong leadership, expertise and experience relevant to this need, sound administration and financial stability.

Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and should include:

- Brief statement of organization history, goals and accomplishments
- Concise description of the program, need, objectives, timetable and an itemized budget for the program
- Amount requested
- Population and demographics to be served by the program or currently served by the organization by percentage (ie: ethnicity, socio-economic levels, etc.)
- Any other organizations or corporations that have either committed or have been approached to fund this program, and the amounts contributed
- Plans for evaluating results, long-term goals and long-term funding plan

Proposals should also provide the following documentation:

- Internal Revenue Service tax-exemption letter 501(c)(3)
- Current year's organizational budget showing anticipated expenses and income
- Most recent audited financial statements
- Current list of principal staff and governing board with affiliations
- Most recent annual report (if available)

Please note, if your organization meets the guidelines for both the Helping Children of Domestic Violence RFP and the General Grant Guidelines for Local DV Program, please submit a separate proposal for each program.

All requests are screened, researched and evaluated by Avon Foundation staff to ensure compliance and grant criteria. The Avon Foundation Board of Directors makes the final determination on all proposals.

Please submit proposals to:

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