

Human Services Funding

2020 Final Report

1. Summarize the activities undertaken in providing the scope of services described in **Attachment A**.

During 2020, YWCA advocates provided a full range of advocacy services including, but not limited to, crisis intervention, a 24 hour domestic violence hotline, safety planning, legal advocacy, housing assistance, support groups, and referrals for community resources as needed. In addition, advocates participated in community events and provided outreach and prevention education to the residents of Bainbridge Island.

2. Reference the project objectives identified in **Attachment A**. Were those objectives achieved? Why or why not? Were there any unexpected positive outcomes or challenges?

The *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* order raised fear and concern for victims of domestic violence and child abuse—where the greatest danger is often in the home. Social distancing requirements and shelter-in-place orders made it even more difficult for domestic violence victims to seek help.

With children out of school and parents at home – some out of work – tension in households contributed to increased incidents of violence. Survivors and their children were stuck inside with their abusers. We didn't know how long this would last and that prolonged sense of the unknown compounded with stress, frustration, and isolation meant abusers desperately attempted to maintain power and control in what felt like a powerless and uncontrollable situation.

In 2020, the YWCA experienced an increase in Hotline calls, and in some cases, abusers used COVID-19 as a weapon to control their victims. On average, we receive 290 hotline calls per month. We experience an increase for requests of services during the holiday season each year, however, the biggest jump in calls is in January – averaging 440 hotline calls from women and families needing help. During the shelter-in-place order, we experienced an unprecedented increase for Kitsap County. In April, we received a total of 616 calls.

Kitsap County

We had another 692 in June and 787 hotline calls in July. Our legal advocacy services program also experienced a 40% increase for requests for support.

Local law enforcement and Kitsap County court systems also reported an uptick in domestic violence related incidents. Tragically, our community experienced solemn reminders:

- A murder of a 23-year-old woman by her boyfriend
- The attempted murder of a 23-year-old woman by her boyfriend
- A shooting of a woman in the leg during an argument with her husband

The YWCA BI Legal Advocate helped to support the families and victims of these incidents.

Frighteningly, the YWCA also provided support for an unprecedented number of requests to rescind no-contact orders. While domestic violence incidents increased, so did the fear of leaving an abuser during this time. Legal Advocates provided education, support, and safety plans to those who chose to return to their abuser.

We had to adjust how we provide services. Support Groups were provided as one-on-one case management over the telephone when/if it was safe for the survivor to talk. Safety plans and legal advocacy services were also provided over the telephone. Court accompaniment was provided via Zoom. We implemented a 24-hour emergency text line and code words so that survivors who were stuck in the house with their abuser could seek and receive support.

YWCA Advocates reached out to community members via social media and direct email – imploring them to check in on friends and loved ones.

When survivors couldn't safely contact us directly, their family and friends reached out to us to receive support and education. Advocates provided them with individual and unique safety plans, so if there was opportunity to safely and discreetly reach out to survivors, they could talk about ways to stay safe.

The YWCA Kitsap County remains committed to providing life-saving services.

3. Reference the specific measurable results identified in **Attachment A**. Were they achieved? If not, what challenges prevented the achievement of the anticipated results? How many Bainbridge Island residents were served? Are the conditions for those residents generally improving or worsening?

YWCA Kitsap County anticipated providing domestic violence advocacy to 70 clients. This objective was achieved. In 2020, the YWCA provided services to 176 Bainbridge Island community members. Of the 176 DV victims that we served, 173 were female, 3 were male, 11 were between the ages of 18-24, 157 were between the ages of 25-59, and 8 were 60 or over.

Support group services were offered to 23 Bainbridge Island residents via one-on-one case management. The one-on-one case management/support group structure offered opportunity for feelings identification, emotion processing, healthy communication, and grounding techniques so as to build resiliency and learn new skills to center safety and stability in their lives.

Through community partnership efforts, YWCA Kitsap County was able to provide 9 presentations to the faith community, businesses, first responders, and others via Zoom. The 9 presentations that YWCA Kitsap County provided included 8 R3 (Recognize, Respond, and Refer) presentations and one Domestic Violence 101 Prevention presentation.

4. Describe the involvement of any partners identified in **Attachment A**, as well as any unexpected cooperative relationships that developed through implementation of the project. Did the City funding help the Service Provider attract additional funding or other types of support?

Community partnerships are vital to YWCA's services, on Bainbridge Island and throughout the county. In 2020, YWCA Kitsap County partnered with Helpline House, Housing Resources Bainbridge, Suquamish Tribe, Bainbridge Island Senior Center, Bainbridge Island Women's Club, Bainbridge Island Police Department, Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Bainbridge Island Municipal Court, Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center, Bainbridge Island Citizens' Academy, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, as well as many other organizations in Bainbridge Island as well as throughout the county. The YWCA was and still is in awe of how our community pulled together to serve those who needed our services most.

Funding from the City of Bainbridge Island helped the YWCA maintain our presence on Bainbridge Island. We were able to achieve a greater community awareness which resulted in serving more clients and attracting more community participation.

5. Reference the project budget specified in **Attachment A**. Provide an analysis of actual expenses and income in relation to the projected budget.

YWCA Kitsap County's projected budget for 2020 was \$78,400. The majority of that budget was designated for staff salary, payroll expenses, and benefits. Actual program expenses were \$58,786. The \$20,000 YWCA received from the City of Bainbridge Island contributed to covering those expenses. It is due to these funds that YWCA Kitsap County was able to provide advocacy, education, and community awareness to the Bainbridge Island community.

6. Provide a short description of how the City funding has helped the Service Provider or helped the community, including any quotes or stories related to this support.

Funding from the City of Bainbridge Island is crucial to YWCA Kitsap County services for Bainbridge Island. Through this partnership, YWCA was able to provide more services and more community education and awareness – even through the pandemic when we were needed the most.

7. Provide recommendations, if any, that the Service Provider may have regarding future funding cycles.

Domestic violence impacts all aspects of our community including community health, crime rates, and the ability to participate in the workforce, child development, and family dynamics. Legal advocacy aids in navigating the civil and criminal justice systems, offers court accompaniment, mobile crisis response for hospitalized victims after an incident and safety planning. Housing advocacy provides access to housing resources and tools to overcome barriers which results in preventing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence. Community education presentations promote the building of healthy relationships with oneself and others. Children and youth who have not been naturally exposed to healthy communication skills are more apt to engage in abusive relationships, whether as abusers or victims. By providing them with the necessary tools for a healthy relationship, they are much more likely to maintain healthy boundaries and use positive communication skills. The YWCA Kitsap County requests that the City of Bainbridge Island continues to center the safety of domestic violence victims.