Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County

480 BROADWAY • LL20 • SARATOGA SPRINGS • NEW YORK 12866
OFFICE 583-0280 • D.V. HOTLINE 584-8188 • RAPE CRISIS HOTLINE 587-2336 • FAX 583-2215

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Tara Anne Pleat
Marcy Thompson

January 24, 2012

Bradley Birge
Office of Community Development
City Hall- 474 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Dear ~~Mr. Birge~~ Brad:

Enclosed you will find our application for Community Development Block Grant funding. Perhaps the single greatest predictor of whether a family fleeing violence in the home will be able to successfully free themselves from the abusive relationship, is their ability to locate and maintain safe housing. Far too often a domestic violence victim must choose between her own safety and being able to provide for the daily living needs of her family. Your support will enable us to continue to provide homelessness intervention and prevention services that help families to overcome homelessness, but even more importantly that support them in maintaining safe housing and increase their standard of living so that they can maintain self-sufficiency. With your support we helped 76 women and children to escape abuse, find safety in our shelter and begin a violence-free future. We also helped 80 women to obtain orders of protection to prevent future abuse and 31 women to become employed or to advance their careers so they could become economically self-sufficient and reduce their risk of a recurrence of homelessness. But numbers are only one part of the story; here's our real impact:

"Thank you for giving me a second chance at life and the ability to recover in a safe place where realization of the potential joys of life has actually been possible. Through the caring, time and attention of the DV staff I know a better life is in store for me and my children."

We are grateful for your past support of our initiatives to prevent and eliminate homelessness in Saratoga Springs. Thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

Maggie

Maggie Fronk
Executive Director

United Way
of Northeastern New York, Inc.

Proud to be a United Way Participating Agency

Please remember Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services in your will and trusts.

Application For
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ENTITLEMENT FORM
-2012 Program Year Funding-

Activity Name: Homeless Prevention and Intervention Activities

Applicant: Domestic Violence Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County

Mailing Address: 480 Broadway Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Phone: 518-583-0280 Fax: 518-583-2215 Email: DVRC@CRISNY.ORG

Contact Person: Maggie Fronk Title: Executive Director

Applicant (Select 1): ☐ City Department ■ Private non-profit organization ☐ Other Public Agency

_____	14-1644567	_____
(List Dept.)	(List Federal ID#)	(Specify)
	781611009	
	DUNS #	

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE (Select 1)

"Benefit persons of Low/moderate income"	"Address slum/blight Conditions"	"Urgent CD Need"
☐ L/M Income Area Benefit	"N/A" Slum/blighted Area	"N/A" Urgent Need
■ L/M Income Limited Clientele Activities	☐ Slum/blighted Spot Basis	
☐ L/M Income Housing Activities	"N/A" Urban Renewal Completion	
☐ L/M Income Job Creation/Retention		

REQUESTED ENTITLEMENT FUNDING:	$22,500
Funding Leveraged from other sources	$22,500
Total Activity Cost	$45,000

Proposal Abstract-please provide a brief overview of your proposal *including the number of persons that will be served* with this grant in the space below:
We are requesting funds to provide homelessness intervention and prevention activities to approximately 45 women and 50 children who are fleeing domestic violence and residing in DVRC's domestic violence shelter. Funds requested will provide continuation funds for a .5FTE residence supervisor whose job duties include:

- direct client assistance with accessing entitlements, employment, childcare and rental assistance
- assistance securing housing
- referrals to community supports needed to maintain housing
- budgeting assistance, and
- safety planning.

DVRC staff will provide financial literacy training to all shelter residents. This program is designed to effect long-term improvements in both reduced victimization and economic self-sufficiency through improved job skills, employment placement, and financial management skills.

M Fronk
Authorized Signature

Executive Director
Title

Maggie Fronk

1/20/2012

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IA. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION- Ongoing: Residence supervisor to work with domestic violence victims currently homeless due to domestic violence on accessing violence-free stable housing.

1B. NEED IDENTIFICATION

Domestic violence is the leading cause of physical injury to women.[1] Such violence has a devastating impact on women's physical and emotional health, financial security, and ability to maintain their jobs. Studies indicate that one of the best predictors of whether a victim will be able to stay away from her abuser is her degree of economic independence. Women who have experienced domestic or dating violence are more likely to be unemployed, suffer from health problems that can affect employability and job performance, to report lower income, and to rely on welfare.[2] Employment instability directly impacts their ability to maintain stable housing and provide for their family's needs. Victims leaving abuse have concerns about unemployment or loss of housing, as well as fewer job opportunities at a level that meets their family's needs.

A 2004 study by Bennett, Riger, et.al. published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, summarizes, "Shelter and advocacy are crucial services for battered women. Along with a safe environment, shelter allows the person to consider their options and rebuild their lives with necessary supports… and may be more helpful than traditional counseling services." Access to shelter services led to a 60% to 70% reduction in incidence and severity of re-assault."[3]

Our current economy has a devastating impact on the incidence of abuse

In order to escape abuse, women need employment so they can provide for their family's basic needs. Without a job they may face no alternative but to return to the abuse.

- A 2009 study by the Allstate Foundation concluded that there is *"a greater chance that the amount of violence in households will increase during times of financial crisis… women need to be aware of economic abuse -- when the abuser uses someone's lack of financial independence to keep them trapped in an abusive relationship."*
- 50% of women participating in TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) had experienced domestic violence – more than double the percentage in the general population[4].
- Domestic violence was the primary cause of family homelessness in 28% of cities surveyed.[5]
- The National Network to End Domestic Violence recently released the following statements: *During stressful economic times, domestic violence programs experience a significant upswing in requests for services … A bad economy does not cause domestic violence; however, there are a number of factors linked to poor economic conditions that are closely associated with domestic violence…Domestic violence is linked with unemployment…victims experience an increase in the frequency and severity of abuse during hard economic times, in part because out-of-work abusers have more opportunity to batter. Moreover, abuse often escalates as economic stresses increase."*

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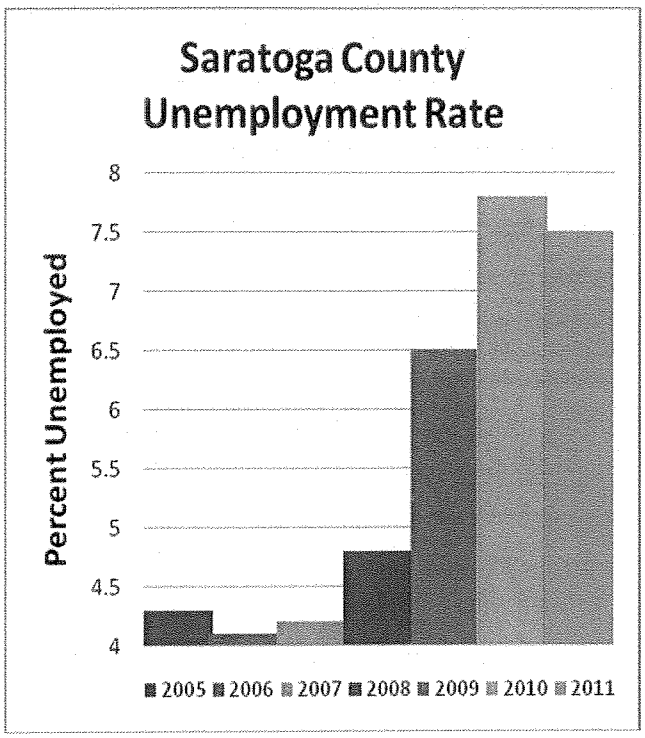
[1] Evan Stark & Anne Flitcraft, Women At Risk: Domestic Violence and Women's Health xvii, 10, 202 (1996).

[2] Detis T. Duhart, U.S. Dep't Of Justice, Violence In The Workforce, 1993-1999 2 (December 2001).

[3] Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Protective Action and Re-Assault: Findings from the RAVE Study

4 National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, (2009). *Shortchanging Survivors: The Family Violence Option for TANF benefits.*

[5] The United States Conference of Mayors (December 2008). *Hunger and Homelessness Survey*



The increasing unemployment rate in Saratoga County over the past 3 years reflects the state of our local job market… and impairs domestic violence victims' ability to escape abuse.

The US Conference of Mayors repots that 73% of cities surveyed reported an increase in homelessness and a 13% increase in requests for emergency shelter. Domestic violence is identified as one of the five primary causes of homelessness and in many cities it is the number one cause of homelessness for families.[1] The wait for Section 8 or public housing can be 3-4 years in Saratoga Springs; families fleeing abusive living environments cannot wait this long—their safety depends upon being able to quickly access safe housing. DVRC helps families to find safety and to provide homelessness prevention and intervention.

This proposal is identified as a high priority in the Consolidated Plan, addressing homeless facilities and services needs. The proposal addresses both 1) emergency shelter for families with children and 2) supportive services to prevent and/or alleviate homelessness. DVRC operates the only emergency domestic violence shelter in Saratoga County, the only shelter for families, and the county's only 24-hour hotline for domestic violence. Nationally, 50% of all homeless women and children are on the streets because of violence in the home.[6] Domestic violence is not only one of the two most common crimes in Saratoga Springs, but is frequently a cause of homelessness for women and children. Some women are chronically homeless because of repeated incidents where they needed to flee their homes; we help them to exit violent homes, develop safety plans and access resources so they live safely and independently.

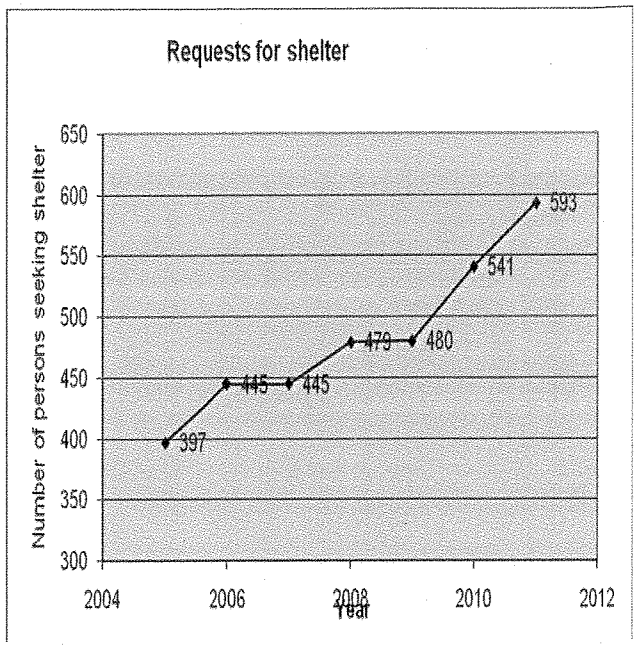
1C. WHO WILL BENEFIT

Our shelter provides no cost services to women and children exiting abusive homes. In 2011 we provided 2,021 bed nights of shelter to 76 persons. Families may remain in shelter for 90 days as they develop transitional plans so that they exit shelter with increased safety for all family members. The project benefits women and children in our emergency shelter who are homeless due to family violence (homelessness intervention) and to non-residential clients of DVRC (homelessness prevention). Although our shelter only houses women and children, DVRC also provides homelessness intervention and prevention services to male domestic violence victims. This proposal benefits the 'limited clientele group' of homeless persons, battered spouses and abused children.

We recognize that CDBG funds serve Saratoga Springs; while not all shelter residents originate from Saratoga Springs, this is the primary demographic served by our agency. Victims often need to seek shelter away from their hometown; consequently our agency frequently relocates victims to another county as it is unsafe to reside locally. Shelters maintain reciprocal agreements to provide housing to out of county residents. In 2011 we had 593 requests for emergency shelter (up 10% from 2010). So while only a

[6] Senator Joseph Biden to the US Senate Committee on the Judiciary Violence against Women Victims of the System 1991

percentage of our shelter residents hailed from Saratoga Springs, many were sent to shelters outside of our community for their safety



Domestic violence victims have unique needs for safety that impact their ability to access housing and employment. Homelessness prevention and intervention requires assistance not only with safely exiting the violent home, but also skills development and supports so that the family does not become dependent upon social services. Our financial literacy programs, Project Hope and Power and Powering Up assist participants to increase financial skills and employment; almost half of the participants of this program were families that had been homeless within the past year and after completing the program, were in safe, stable housing and actively improving their employment. The goal of all our case management services is to improve self-sufficiency by overcoming the unique barriers to self-sufficiency facing domestic violence victims:

Safety issues- Abusers often harass victims at their workplace or use knowledge of their work schedules to threaten their safety, impacting their ability to keep a job. We help clients and employers to overcome obstacles so they may remain employed.

Lack of work experience- Abusers often limit a victim's ability to maintain employment; upon exiting the abuse she lacks work history or job skills. DVRC helps clients access entitlements for immediate financial support, and provides assistance developing employment goals and skills.

Legal issues- Fears of actions by the abuser e.g., fear that the abuser will seize the children and vanish, may prevent the victim from securing employment. Required court appearances can impact a victim's ability to immediately commit to employment. Our counselors and legal advocates help the victim to navigate through these obstacles more expediently. We refer to the Legal Aid Society and we offer biweekly legal clinics for victims to access free legal counsel.

Lack of Resources- Often a victim seeks shelter for herself and her children after a crisis that seriously jeopardized their safety. They may flee with only the clothes on their backs. When the abuser controls all family finances, all assets, bank accounts, car titles and registrations, the woman finds herself starting a new life for herself and her family without any money, any furnishings, transportation, indeed without even clothing. We provide clothing, furnishings, assistance using public transportation or accessing cars through Wheels to Work.. For many victims, shelter is the first time they've used the social welfare system. We quickly intervene so that the family attains self-sufficiency and does not face prolonged or chronic homelessness.

Local employment and housing challenges- Saratoga Springs enjoys an unemployment rate well below the NYS average. However, many of these jobs are in retail or the service industry and offer wages that are insufficient to meet the basic living needs for a family. Indeed, 38% of female headed households in Saratoga Springs are living below the poverty level.[7] This, combined with the high cost of rents, presents difficulties for families in sustaining affordable housing.

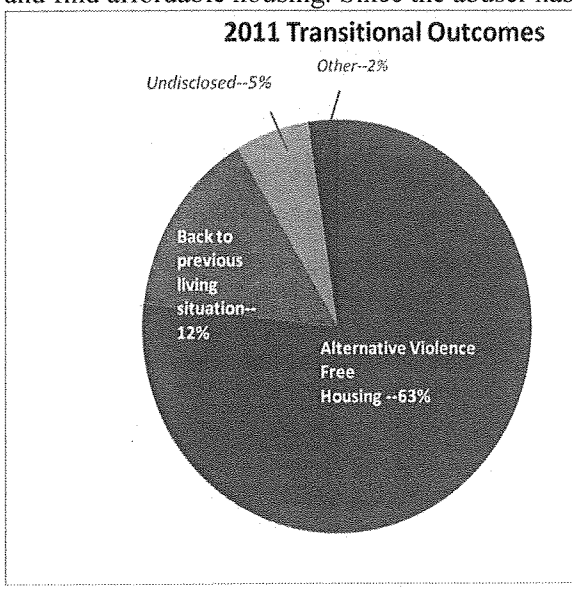
Specialized support service needs- Victimization from domestic violence may be associated with mental health symptoms or chemical dependency. Abused women were diagnosed 6 times more often with substance abuse, over 3 times more often with depression, and 3 times more often with sexually transmitted

[7] US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census 1990 Census

diseases than women who were not abused.[8] Abuse victims sometimes suffer depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, or substance abuse which if untreated impairs their functioning. Our counselors provide referrals, support, and follow-up to aid victims in addressing these needs which can be especially stressful and challenging as the family exits abuse.

1D. GOALS AND OUTCOME INDICATORS

A shelter stay of 90 days is a short period to: recover from injuries, file police reports, attend court dates, find a job, enroll the children in a new school, access transportation (since many victims do not have cars), and find affordable housing. Since the abuser has denied them access to or knowledge about family resources many domestic violence victims lack budgeting experience. We teach these skills so the family can be self-sustaining.



From the moment a woman and her children enter shelter, we work on a transition plan that includes a needs assessment and short-term goal planning. While national statistics indicate that a victim may need to enter shelter 7-8 times before she is able to successfully leave the abusive living environment, in 2011, only 11.6% of victims exiting our shelter returned to their previous living situation (a decrease from 15-16% averages for the past several years). We attribute our favorable outcomes to the intensive work we do with families in shelter to support self-sufficiency goals. We operate transitional and permanent housing for 17 families overcoming domestic violence; these programs offer families rental subsidies and long-term (~24 months) support services to increase self-sufficiency. Our advocates work with clients not just to exit an abusive situation, but to develop skills and resources so they achieve independence from the social services system. The CDBG-funded residence supervisor or helps residents transition to these programs.

In 2010 we achieved the following milestones:

- **22** adults became employed and **9** adults advanced their employment
- **29** families obtained housing
- **36** adults received custody/child support
- **80** adults received an order of protection.

We measure success based upon the following indicators:

- percentage of families that achieve violence-free living after shelter
- number of adults who apply for housing/rental subsidies
- number of adults who attain permanent safe housing for themselves and their families
- number of adults who access an order of protection, or temporary support or custody
- number of adults who apply for employment and who access employment
- number of adults who access entitlements so they may reduce financial dependence
- number of adults who access medical, mental health or substance abuse treatment

1E. TIMETABLE AND SCHEDULE

We request continuation funds to support 50% of a full-time residence supervisor that will:

- Work with each shelter resident to improve financial management and employment skills.
- Meet with each new shelter resident within one business day of when she enters shelter to develop a safety plan, complete an assessment of transitional needs and develop short-term goals for housing plans, employment, childcare and financial management.

[8] Bonomi, A.E., Anderson, M., Reid, R.J., Rivara, F.P., Carrell, D. & Thompson, R.S. (2009)

- Assist the shelter resident to develop a budget and save for housing and relocation costs
- Review goal progress in weekly meetings and adjust the goal plan as necessary.
- Assist the resident with housing applications, apartment searches and accessing furnishings

1F. REQUIRED LICENSURE
DVRC is licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to operate the county's only domestic violence shelter. This project requires no additional licensure.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY
DVRC has been in operation for 30 years. We have an active board of directors who oversee strategic planning, quality assurance resource development, fiscal oversight and personnel management (see attached board roster). We have benefited in the past from generous funding by the City of Saratoga Springs. In 2003 we received $31,000 funding to improve handicapped accessibility in our shelter. Most recently CDBG funds supported a shelter case manger: 2004-5 @ $13,000; 2005-7 @ $16,000/, 2008-9@ $15,000, 2009-10 @$17,000 and 2011 @$12,575.

2B. ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE
We have extensive background in helping domestic violence victims achieve self-sufficiency. In 2011 DVRC responded to 1,980 hotline calls and provided in-person services to 572 clients While our shelter is a safe home for women and children fleeing abuse, our services are far more comprehensive. To successfully leave an abuse, a victim needs services and supports to adequately meet the family's basic living needs, such as: employment, housing, childcare, medical coverage, transportation, and legal protections. Without these skills and services the family has an increased risk of repeat victimization or chronic homelessness. So that we may find housing and treatment options to meet the needs of families rendered homeless by abuse, we engage in community collaborations including: the Saratoga County Homelessness Alliance, the Rental Assistance Program, and the Crisis Action Network.

While other community-based services exist that assist individuals with case management and vocational needs, we offer the only services specific to the needs of domestic violence victims and their families. As domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for families, DVRC's services are a critical component in the plan to end homelessness in Saratoga Springs. Our self-sufficiency initiatives include:

- our financial Literacy program, *Project Hope and Power,* and
- a housing and employment specialist who works with clients on job-readiness training and with local employers who may be interested in hiring graduates of this program
- transitional and permanent housing programs to provide rent subsidies and on-going support services to individuals and families working toward self-sufficiency.

2C & D. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE
The Executive Director is responsible for oversight of the program. The clinical program director directly supervises program staff. The residence supervisor provides direct one-on-one case management assistance, transitional goal planning and assists with Project Hope and Power, a financial literacy program aiding participants in attaining sustained increases in financial skills and earning potential.

2D. OTHER PARTNERS
The residence supervisor works collaboratively and refers clients for needed assistance with a full range of housing and service providers e.g., mental health or substance abuse services, legal assistance, day care, job skills training, housing assistance and budgeting assistance. However, primary responsibility for case management services and homelessness prevention will be the responsibility of DVRC. Soroptimist volunteers provide assistance with Project Hope and Power, a new financial literacy program offered quarterly by DVRC. This program, serving 50 women annually supplements the activities of the residence supervisor by providing instruction in specific skills areas and individual mentoring.

(ATTACHMENT 3)

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)CIRCULAR A-133
MONITORING OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUBRECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION: Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County

MAILING ADDRESS: 480 Broadway, LL20, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

FEDERAL ID #: 14-1644567 PHONE: (518) 583-0280 FAX: (518) 583-2215

1. Please identify your fiscal year (mth/yr to mth/yr): 01/12 to 12/12

Please identify the funding received during your last fiscal year:

2. Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funding (CDBG):

CDBG Activity Name: Homelessness Prevention and Intervention- Shelter Counselor
CDBG Funding Program Year: 2012 CDBG Funding Amount: $22,500 requested

3. Other Federal Financial Awards (cash & non-cash):
GIVE NAME & CATALOG OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CDFA) # AMOUNT OF AWARDS

Grant	**Total**	**Fed Funds**
DOH	55,000	27,500
DCJS	39,648	39,648
OCFS	35,602	35,602
CVB	161,223	128,978
HUD1 Trans	114,536	89,795
HUD1 Perm	36,607	29,050
HUD2 Trans	30,279	*10,290*
HUD2 Perm	37,294	*16,900*
ESG	47,421	47,421
CDBG	8,500	7,500
CDBG	6,287	8,500
STEPH	63,144	15,786
TANF	2,125	0
Sub-Contracts		
NYSCADV Rural Outreach (2011 qtrs)		29,109
Legal Aid	5,000	3,750
NYSCASA		
SASP	6,000	4,242
TOTAL		**$494,071**

4. During your last fiscal year, has your organization expended more than $500,000 in total federal financial awards (incl. CDBG & all other federal assistance)? YES * ___ NO X

* If "yes", include a copy of your last a copy of your latest Single Audit Report with this completed and signed form as part of your application. If you answered "no", please complete, sign and return this form. N/A

5. Are you aware of any financial audit violations, findings or questioned costs related to any activity funded with federal financial assistance? YES * ___ NO X

6. Other Saratoga County Awards (cash & non-cash):
IDENTIFY PROGRAM NAME & YEAR OF AWARD IDENTIFY AMOUNT OF CO. AWARDS

Non-Residential Domestic Violence Program Grant $38,500

M Fral 1/20/2012

(ATTACHMENT 2)

CONSTRUCTION / SITE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

(Entitlement Grant + Leveraged Funds = Total Activity Cost)

	ENTITLEMENT GRANT	Leveraged Funds*	Total Activity Cost	*Source of leveraged Funds and In-Kind Services
PRECONSTRUCTION				
Legal				
Engineering				
Architectural/Design				
Fees and Permits				
Subtotal				
DEVELOPMENT				
Relocation				
Site Preparation				
Construction - materials				
Construction Financing				
Other – (explain)				
Subtotal				
TOTAL COST	$0	$0	$0	

(ATTACHMENT I)

PROGRAM OPERATING BUDGET

(Entitlement Grant + Leveraged Funds = Total Activity Cost)

	ENTITLEMENT GRANT	Leveraged Funds*	Total Activity Cost	*Source of leveraged Funds and In-Kind Services
PERSONNEL				
Salaries	18,000	18,000	36,000	NYS STEHP
Fringe	4,500	4,500	9,000	NYS STEHP
Other (consultants, etc.)				
Subtotal	22,500	22,500	45,000	
OVERHEAD				
Advertising/Marketing				
Program Supplies				
Rent & Utilities				
Other – list below				
Subtotal				
TOTAL COST	22,500	22,500	45,000	