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## 2019 Iowa Balance of State (IA-501) Continuum of Care (CoC) New & DV Bonus Project Application

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### APPLICANT NAME AND INFORMATION

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**Application Type:** DV Bonus: Rapid Rehousing (DV RRH)

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**Organization Name:** NIAD Center for Human Development

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**Project Name** Crisis Intervention Service-DV RRH

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**Projected number of clients to be served by new project:** 10

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**Requested Funding Amount:** 167778

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**Currently registered in federal System for Award Management (SAM):** Yes

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**DUNS #:** 623479102

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**Address of Administrative Office:** 206 Third NE  
Mason City, IA 50401

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**Primary Contact Name:** Mary Ingham

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**Primary Contact Phone:** (641) 423-0490

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**Primary Contact Email:** Mary@CIShelps.org

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**Secondary Contact Name:** Rachel Olson

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**Secondary Contact Phone:** (641) 530-5577

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**Secondary Contact Email:** Rachel@CIShelps.org

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### THRESHOLD ASSURANCES

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**Having too little or no income:** NOT a Barrier

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**Having a criminal record with exceptions for state, and/or federal restrictions:** NOT a Barrier

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**Fleeing domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement):** NOT a Barrier

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**Having (or not having) a previous address within Iowa:** NOT a Barrier

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**Failure to comply with HUD's 2016 Gender Identity Rule:** NOT a Barrier  
(<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/>)

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**Failure to comply with Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements including assuring non-discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and familial status and disability.** NOT a Barrier

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## **CONTINUUM OF CARE PARTICIPATION**

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**1. Describe timeline/progress of Coordinated Entry in your region. Explain your organization's participation in Coordinated Entry and the steps taken to support the Coordinated Entry process in the region.**

Northeast Iowa

Consistent pull meeting participation. CIS has been able to pull 2 people this year and 2 last year into our rapid rehousing program.

Two Rivers-Ames

Active with this group for two years, helping with the early stages of policies and procedures. Our Housing & Economic Justice Coordinator assisted with the DV101 training for members of the group. She attends the quarterly meetings & will be the secretary for this group beginning in October. She also serves on the landlord recruitment subcommittee, which meets monthly. We will also be involved with the point time count planning & implementation. Pull meetings will begin soon.

1/25/18, 6/7/18, 8/2/18, 9/13/18, 10/12/18, 11/1/18, 1/3/19, 3/7/19

North Central-Mason City

This region has experienced turnover in the past two years. Working on establishing access points and have discussed pull meetings. CIS staff has attended all of the meetings =& will continue participation.

9/11/18

04/29/19

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**2. Since January 2018, have representatives of your organization attended at least three bimonthly meetings of the Iowa Council on Homelessness? Note that anyone can participate in Council meetings even if not a voting member. Posted meeting minutes must be available to verify attendance.**

Yes, Rachel Olson attended the following dates:

- January 18, 2019
- May 17, 2019
- July 19, 2019

**3. a. Describe professional development opportunities (conferences, meeting, trainings, webinars, etc.) related to Homelessness in which representatives of your organization have participated within the last 12 months.**

1. Rentwise Training
2. Pull meetings
3. Coordinated entry meetings
4. Iowa Housing Conference 2018
5. Home Forward Iowa Board meetings
6. Iowa Council on Homelessness meetings
7. ServicePoint refresher training
8. Iowa Council on Homelessness and Iowa Balance of State Planning meeting (Des Moines, November 2018)
9. Coordinated Entry Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Assistance Tool webinar
10. Navigating the Unsheltered Count Point in Time Training webinar
11. Low Barrier Shelter meeting (Mason City)

**3. b. From the activities mentioned above, list the top three (3) most useful experiences and describe how your organization implemented information gained from them?**

Our Housing Coordinator has facilitated the RentWise training to all staff. This is a perfect complement to our landlord recruitment efforts. Clients who complete the Rentwise program will receive certificates, which is not a guarantee for being a good renter, but will be beneficial in promoting landlord recruitment.

Two Rivers Coordinated Entry has been very useful in collaboration & connecting with others in lower populated counties. The work we are doing together to recruit landlords, specifically promoting our newly implemented RentWise training. It helps to have many individuals expressing the same message as we work to end homelessness in rural Iowa.

The education offered at the Iowa Housing Conference last year supported our vision of utilizing model practices within our agency. The sessions on Coordinated Entry & Shelter Diversion helped strengthen our existing resources. The session on Innovative Employment Models inspired creative approaches to ending homelessness.

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## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT/DESIGN**

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**4. Describe the agency's experience in effectively addressing homelessness, including permanent supportive housing and/or supportive services or prevention services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.**

CIS provides emergency housing, rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, & transitional housing to victims of abuse who have experienced homelessness & housing instability. Providing safe, supportive housing and referring clients to community resources will ensure their housing stability as we work towards our goal of ending homelessness. Program goals:

- empower participants to gain self-sufficiency, economic stability & permanent housing;
- empower clients to gain balance in their lives across emotional, physical, social & spiritual aspects;
  
- provide the right amount of assistance to provide permanent housing opportunities;
- continued involvement with coordinated entry and prioritization.

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**5. To what extent has your agency taken steps locally to educate communities on the issues of homelessness: (e.g. decriminalization of homelessness engaging local policymakers, law enforcement, or business leaders; implementing community plan)?**

A community collaboration involving diverting mental health calls from the criminal justice system. We educate the group on homelessness & how we can best support vulnerable citizens. The need for a low-barrier shelter was identified as a need in the community.

- Mason City Police Department, Cerro Gordo County Social Services; Executive Director; Ongoing since October 2017

Ongoing discussion for the past year with Winnebago County employees to raise awareness of homelessness and how ending homelessness requires the work of the entire community. Conversations focused on decriminalizing poverty & homelessness.

- Winnebago County Attorney, Winnebago County Sheriff & other county employees; Housing Coordinator; Weekly/Monthly throughout the year

CIS regularly attends local political forums to keep homelessness issues & the need for affordable housing at the forefront of public policy and funding decisions.

- Ongoing, various staff
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**6. Describe the agency's experience in utilizing non-HUD funds to address homelessness from sources including federal, state, local governments and private funds such as United Way, community foundation and individual donors.**

The majority (90%) of agency revenues are in the form of competitive federal and state grants. In addition to Emergency Solutions Grant funding from the Iowa Financial Authority, the organization receives the 10 other federal and state grants.

The organization also receives support from local government (2%), foundations (3%), united way (2%), as well as groups & individuals (3%).

In the past year, the organization utilized a variety of in-kind donations to help individuals and families as they enhance their living situation. Donated items include everything from food, cleaning products and clothing to furniture and appliances.

**7. Describe your agency's basic organization and management structure as it relates to this proposed project. Include relationship of any sub-contractors:**

Crisis Intervention Service is a private, non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors that provide strategic planning and policy direction for the organization. The Executive Director is responsible for program management and direction.

While most of our staff work exclusively within a specific program area, our housing team works with all programs. This allows all of the individuals & families we serve to access our housing support, as opposed to just individuals with a specific type of victimization. The staffing structure of the Rapid Rehousing Housing Program will include a Housing & Economic Justice Coordinator (20 hours/week) and Housing Advocate (40 hours/week).

CIS has no sub-contracts at this time, but partners with many location organizations to meet the needs of homeless and near homeless individuals & families.

**8. a) Does your agency undergo annual audits by a CPA?**

Yes

**8. b) Attach letter from your most recent audit.**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3508381/79526876/525815242/79526876\\_auditor\\_letter.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3508381/79526876/525815242/79526876_auditor_letter.pdf)

**9. Briefly describe your agency's financial staffing and capacity:**

multidisciplinary advocate (domestic abuse & sexual assault) and has worked with survivors of abuse, homelessness and poverty for 30 years. Mary has extensive experience with program development & implementation, fiscal management and grant management.

The organization utilizes an outside accounting firm for payroll services.

CIS has a solid history of grant management and has the funds available needed to provide the cash flow for a successful housing program.

**10. Explain the current homelessness need that this project proposes to address and why and how this particular project is likely to reduce or eliminate this need. Cite available data relevant to the communities to be served and to the identified need. Describe any resources currently addressing this need. How would this project be truly “new” in terms of the services provided and the population to be served?**

CIS will focus on underserved victims of domestic violence seeking housing, with targeted outreach to rural victims. Approximately 63% of women who are homeless have been victims of intimate partner violence and 50% state that domestic violence was the immediate cause of homelessness.

CIS will add 10 additional Rapid Rehousing units in our 15 county service area. CIS participates in three Coordinated Entry Groups, as well as numerous other community coalitions and networking groups. Our project will utilize a Housing First approach with client-driven services and a focus on helping participants move to permanent housing as quickly as possible. We will provide or connect participants with resources that enhance their safety & well-being while achieving other self-identified goals.

This project fills a gap in supportive housing in North Central Iowa. There is no CoC Rapid Rehousing specifically designated for domestic violence victims in our 15-county service area.

The Family Alliance for Veterans of America provides Permanent Supportive Housing for veterans in North Iowa. They currently have the capacity for 5 units in Forest City (Winnebago County) and 5 units in Mason City (Cerro Gordo County). Three of the units are occupied in each location, with a current availability of 2 in each location.

Friends of the Family operate several housing programs that overlap with our service area, but all are for the general homeless population and targeted to supporting individuals/families impacted by domestic violence.

- Northeast Iowa Permanent Supportive Housing Program (Butler)-12 units, 25 households on waiting list
  - Turning Point Rural Housing Project (Butler)-24 units
  - Rapid Rehousing Initiative of North Iowa (Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Mitchell & Worth)-10 unit, waiting list of 11 households
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**11. Briefly describe how clients will be assisted with obtaining and remaining in permanent housing:**

CIS prioritizes safety, empowerment & accessibility. CIS will provide financial assistance and comprehensive housing services which includes locating long-term housing, education on how to be a good tenant, and assistance with deposits, rent, utilities and other moving expenses.

Ongoing case management and supportive services focus on skill development, financial literacy, career empowerment and healing from trauma. We work toward empowering our clients to monitor their own goals and budget, but provide as much support as needed along the path.

Our community partnerships addresses barriers specific to domestic violence such as single income households, high rates of anxiety and depression, lack of work history, history of evictions/broken leases, lack of work history, poor credit history and lack of trust. For many families transportation & child care are incredible barriers to employment.

CIS continues follow-up quarterly for the first year after exiting the program.

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**12. List the Iowa counties intended to be served thru this project application:**

Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Mitchell, Webster, Winnebago, Worth, Wright

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**13. Transportation assistance will be provided to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs.**

True

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**14. Project participants will have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a sub-recipient, or partner agency.**

True

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**15. At least semi-annual follow-ups will be conducted with participants after project exit to ensure and verify that mainstream benefits are received and renewed (and for RRH projects, to ensure and verify that housing stability is maintained).**

True

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## **HOUSING FIRST**

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**16. a) Failure to participate in supportive services and/or failure to make progress on a service plan:**

No

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16. b) Loss of income or failure to improve income: No

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16. c) Active substance abuse: No

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16. d) Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area: No

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16. e) Ensure that every effort is made to help participants transition to other housing options when continuation in this project is jeopardized or about to expire? Yes

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## BUDGET

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17. Rental Assistance - CoC Request 84000

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17. Rental Assistance - Match 0

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17. Rental Assistance - Total 84000

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17. Leasing - CoC Request 0

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17. Leasing - Total 0

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17. Supporting Services - CoC Request 66028

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17. Supporting Services - Match 20000

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17. Supportive Services - Total 86028

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17. Operating Costs - CoC Request 7500

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17. Operating Costs - Match 21944

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17. Operating Costs - Total 29444

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17. HMIS - CoC Request 1750

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17. HMIS - Match 0

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17. HMIS - Total 1750

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17. Subtotal - CoC Request 159278

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17. Subtotal - Match 41944

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17. Subtotal - Total 201222

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17. Administration - CoC Request 8500

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<b>17. Administration - Match</b>	0
<b>17. Administration - Total</b>	8500
<b>17. Grand Total - CoC Request</b>	167778
<b>17. Grand Total - Match</b>	41944
<b>17. Grand Total - Budget</b>	209722
<b>Match Check (25% or Higher)</b>	25.00
<b>Admin Check (7% or Less)</b>	4.05
<b>Total Request Check (Must =0)</b>	0.00

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**BONUS: UNDER-SERVED COUNTIES**

**18. a) Will this project serve any of the under-served counties reported above?** Yes

**18. b) Which of the under-served counties will be served and how (i.e. on site staff, outreach, etc.)?**

Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Wright

CIS shifted to a mobile advocacy model in 2013, which puts our advocates in the community to meet with clients in locations determined by the people we serve instead of specific office locations. This reduces barriers in transportation and stigma, while enhancing our accessibility. While our housing program will be coordinating the rapid rehousing project, all agency staff will be able to provide an emergency response when needed. Our staff is available for crisis response 24-hours a day, 365 days a week.

CIS currently has offices located in Eldora (Hardin), Algona (Kossuth) and Clarion (Wright) if clients would prefer to meet in a traditional setting.

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**DV BONUS SUPPLEMENTAL**

**A. i) Describe how many domestic violence survivors the CoC is currently serving in the CoC's geographic area.**

Our service area has a total population of 241,426 throughout the 15-county region. In the last year, CIS served 2,341 individuals impacted by violence in our 15-county service area.

In the past year:

- CIS utilized ESG funding to support Rapid Rehousing for 12 households, including 12 adults & 15 children and Homeless Prevention for 26 households, including 26 adults & 16 children.
- CIS utilized Office on Violence Against Women-Transitional Housing funds to support a 4-unit transitional housing facility in Eldora (Hardin County), serving 7 adults and 6 children.

Our organization was able to use a blend of other federal, state and local funds to provide the following assistance to individuals in the past year:

- Housing Advocacy (525)
- Material Assistance (270)
- Financial Assistance (264)
- Financial Counseling (144)
- Economic Advocacy (100)
- Employment Counseling (52)

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**A. ii) What was the data source used for the calculations and how was the data was collected?**

US Census Data

Domestic Violence Information Management System database

CIS data is compiled in a secure database (Empower DB) used by all CIS staff to track services and assistance provided to individuals and families.

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**B. i) Describe how many domestic violence survivors need housing or services in the CoC's geographic area.**

Last year, we had direct contact with 525 households in need of housing services & supports in our region. We do know from our experience that the number of people in need within our area dramatically exceeds the number of individuals that find their way to our organization.

Our service area has a total population of 241,426, with a total of 120,844 adult females. National data indicates that an average of 5% of our population are currently victims of domestic violence, which would be a total of 24,146 women in our service area. Our national data projects that 25-50% of victims will attempt to leave an abusive situation. If we use the more conservative estimate of 25%, we could theorize that there are 6,042 women in our service area potentially in need of rapid rehousing to escape domestic violence.

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**B. ii) What data source was used for the calculations and how was the data was collected?**

US Census Data

National Network to End Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Information Management System database

CIS data is compiled in a secure database (Empower DB) used by all CIS staff to track services and assistance provided to individuals and families.

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**C. i) (Housing Only) Based on the questions A. and B: Describe the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors and quantify the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors.**

There is a domestic violence shelter available in Fort Dodge (Webster County) & a homeless shelter in Mason City (Cerro Gordo) that some victims choose to access. CIS is the only organization that currently offers homeless prevention & rapid rehousing specifically for this target population.

In the last year, we have documented 45 adults and 37 children that we were unable to fully serve their housing needs. We were able to partially serve and additional 14 adults and 17 children with partial funding for their housing needs. An additional 317 individuals in need of housing assistance were unable to be provided with financial assistance, but we did help facilitate a safe temporary space.

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**C. ii) (Housing Only) Describe the data source used to quantify the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors and how the unmet need was determined.**

US Census Data

Domestic Violence Information Management System database

CIS data is compiled in a secure database (Empower DB) used by all CIS staff to track services and assistance provided to individuals and families.

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**D. Describe how the DV Bonus project being applied for will address the unmet needs of domestic violence survivors.**

CIS will prioritize housing for victims of domestic violence because of the unique housing barriers that exist for these individuals. Survivors frequently lack the financial resources to secure housing, may have had their past housing sabotaged by a controlling partner, experience barriers to employment & services due to lack of transportation or child care. When faced with such obstacles, many survivors continuously re-enter shelters or return to an unsafe housing situation with their partner. This expansion will allow the organization to provide enhanced supportive services and additional financial support. CIS will increase housing, employment and transportation options for client in the 15 county service area by increasing agreements with local landlord to house CIS client, develop a network of employers willing to mentor and employ the client and establish a network of volunteers to assist with transportation needs.

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**E. Address the capacity of your project to overcome the multiple barriers faced by DV survivors.**

CIS currently seeks funding from a variety of sources to support comprehensive financial assistance to meet the needs of victims of abuse. Funding through this application will allow our organization to better meet the housing & safety needs of domestic violence survivors fleeing an abusive situation in North Central Iowa.

We work closely with landlords and property managers to advocacy for individuals with bad credit and past evictions, as well as promoting our supportive services & Rentwise training.

We have solid relationships with organizations that provide mental health and substance abuse support and assistance throughout our region. We can often secure same-day crisis appointments with providers to provide immediate stabilization and we work on a longer term plan.

Our organization provides rides to individuals with barriers to transportation, as well as regional transit passes, bus passes and gas gift cards.

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**F. Address the capacity of your agency applying for DV bonus project by describing the improvements in safety for DV survivors.**

Our staff work with survivors closely to address various aspects related to safety. We know that the individuals/families that we serve are the best experts on their own lives, and we work to empower them to believe in themselves again. We routinely talk about the cycle of abuse, ways to keep yourself safe, access to community resources, identifying a support system and reconnecting with the community. Based upon our client surveys in the past year:

- 94.90% increased knowledge of ways to plan for their safety;
  - 92.23% increased knowledge of community resources;
  - 90.73% felt they lived in a safer environment with a decrease in abuse.
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**G. (Housing Only) Address the capacity of your agency applying for DV bonus project by describing the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors.**

In the past year, CIS was able to find safe housing for 94% of the individuals seeking assistance.

CIS assisted 93 individuals with rent/deposit in the past year; 88% of the individuals remained in their housing 6 months after the end of our financial assistance.

90% of the individuals assisted with rent, deposit or utilities reported that they felt safe in their home. When exploring safety in the home with housing program participants, most of the lack of safety was the result of fear of their former partner, as opposed to being the result of the actual housing. An increased ability to plan for safety was reported by 94% of housing program participants.

Our program will utilize a housing first approach, focusing on finding safe, secure housing for individuals and families. Once safe housing is secured, our housing program staff will work to identify goals with program participants and implement a plan to reach personal and program goals.

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