Letter of Intent

Each of our agencies agrees to be part of a consortium that supports the development and implementation of an economic education and IDA program for battered women within the St. Louis region. For a battered woman, the need to rebuild herself financially becomes core to remaining safe from her abuser. We are painfully aware of the need for women to become economically self-sufficient in order to gain control of their lives and we know, first hand, how a lack of economic self-sufficiency can critically jeopardize a battered woman's safety.

As a consortium, we agree:

- to the principles of the importance of economic advocacy services for battered women
- to work together as a consortium and to support Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc.'s. (ROW) ability to provide leadership and act the sponsoring organization in the development and implementation of a financial education and IDA program
- as shelter programs, to allow ROW's financial education and IDA services to be provided on-site
- as non-residential programs, to provide referrals to ROW's financial education and IDA services at their city or county locations

We strongly believe that economic advocacy services must be developed and tailored to meet the unique needs of battered women. Together, as a consortium, we strongly support ROW in the development and implementation of a financial education and IDA program designed specifically to assist battered women with achieving economic self-sufficiency and increase safeguards against future episodes of domestic violence. This will fill a critical gap in the provision of services within the domestic violence community.

Michelle Schiller-Baker Executive Director Kathy J. Weinman Shelter	Pat Kulik Director The Women's Center	Mary Albert Executive Director Lydia's House
Margaret Caven Executive Director Women's Safe House	Barbara Bennett Executive Director Women's Supp & Comm. Serv.	Dr. Gloria Johnson Executive Director Life Source Consultants
Lynn Rothbarth Executive Director Legal Advocates for Abused Women	Cathy Tofall Executive Director St. Louis Victims Services	Sue Dersch Program Director A.W.A.R.E.
Jeanne Meurer Executive Director Woman's Place	Michelle Schiller-Baker Executive Director St. Martha's	