

**TANF Assistance
to
Domestic Violence Victims
at
The Family Place**

9/24/2014





the family place

Saving lives for 35 years

Since 1978 The Family Place mission has been to empower victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling and skills that create independence while building community engagement and advocating for social change to stop family violence.

[The Safe Campus](#)

Family Violence Dallas County

- Over 13,000 offenses reported to police.
- 2014 Homeless Point In Time Count showed 13% domestic violence and 9% family problems caused homelessness.
- 80% victims are women.
- Highest at risk population: African American women.
- Age group most affected: 20-26 years.
- 23 domestic violence related homicides.
- 7,578 calls to Hotline seeking help (2,879 calls from police) represents 119% increase over 2012 (3456).

Sheltering Homeless Victims of Family Violence

In 2013:

- Served 1,042 clients: 383 women, 7 men, 652 children
- Provided 30,062 days of shelter
- Served 68,692 meals & 44,799 snacks
- Provided 766 items of clothing for women
- Distributed 396 school uniforms
- 35 households (79 clients) received emergency financial assistance (rent, deposits, utilities)

Sheltering Homeless Victims of Family Violence

Previous residence

- 52% were renting
- 40% living with family or friends
- 8% owned their own home

Income

- 57% had no income at entry
- 75% had non cash benefits at entry (SNAPS, Medicaid, WIC)

Job Readiness Program Goal

- The goal of The Family Place Job Readiness Program is to increase the number of individuals completing work training programs

Job Readiness Program Client

- Female head of household who is a victim of family violence
- Little or no income at entry
- Limited employment history
 - Gaps in employment
 - No job history
 - Short term job history
- Lack support system to sustain employment
- Lacks job skills
- Approximately 35% never completed high school, 20% do not speak English, 25% lack basic computer skills, and 15% have never been employed

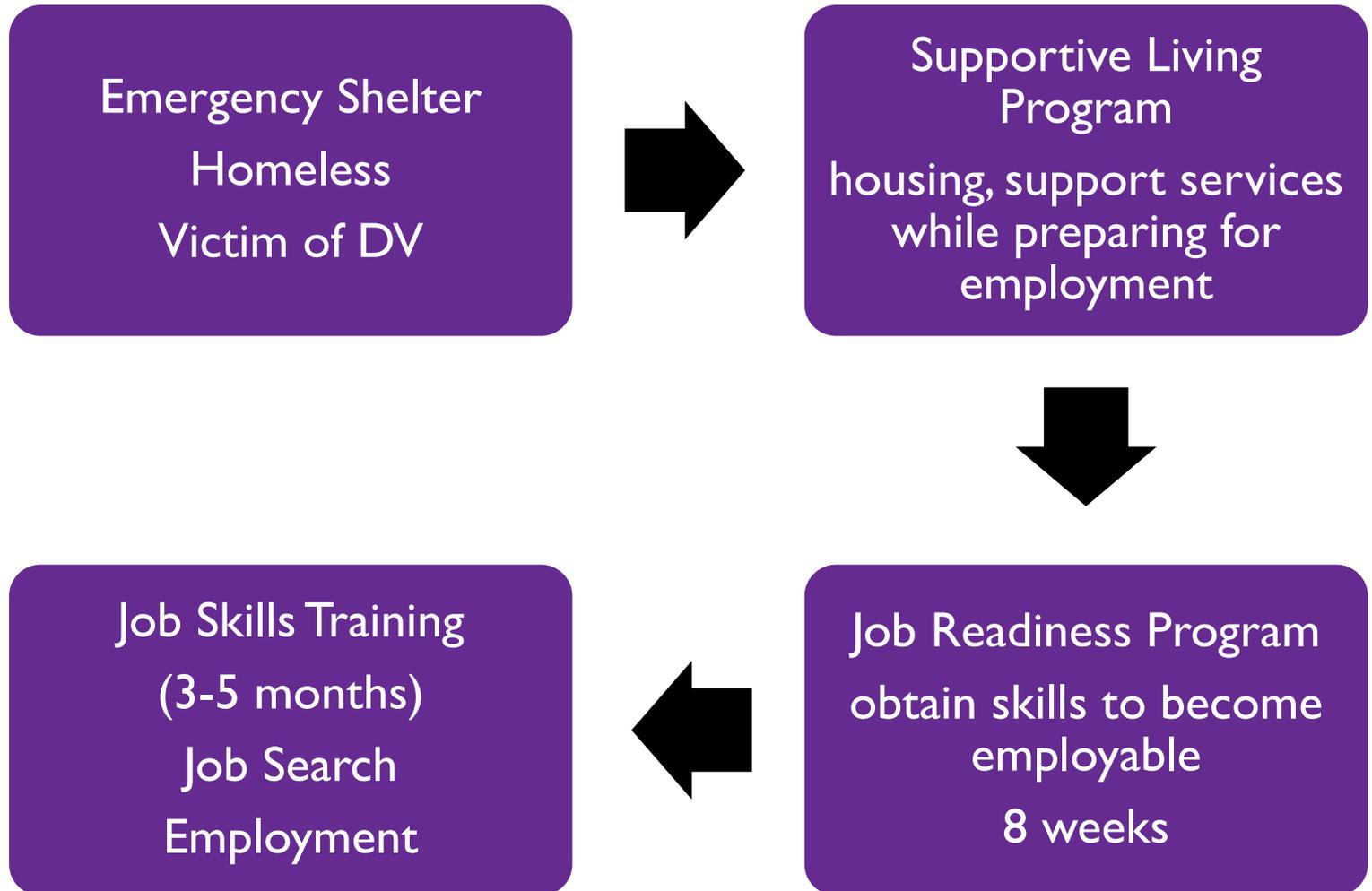
TANF Good Cause Exemptions for Domestic Violence

Local Workforce Agency: Choices Program

- Participation in employment services (job, training, readiness, etc.). Exemption up to 3 months; renewable to one year.
- Initial session at workforce agency
- At any later time during job, training, readiness, etc.
- Woman's Statement of domestic violence is accepted (documentation recommended if available)

Dr. Patricia Cole, as part of a grant with the Texas Department of Human Services, January 2000, wrote this article. It was originally distributed at the "Challenges and Opportunities for Domestic Violence Victims in Welfare and Related Programs- How Can Advocates Help? A Conference for Texas Advocates for Victims of Domestic Violence," January 24-25, 2000. It was sponsored by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Austin, Texas, 512/407-9020 (voice and fax), <http://www.ncdsv.org>

Program Model



JOB READINESS PROGRAM

- **Job Readiness Assessments**
- **Career Exploration Inventory**
- **Creating a Resume**
- **Interviewing Skills**
- **Job Search**
- **Basic Computer Skills**
- **Attend Attitudes & Attire**
- **Dress for Success**

JOB SKILLS TRAINING

- **Women take classes to obtain skills to qualify for a job in a specific field**
- **Classes are taken at local Community Colleges (Eastfield, Richland, Mountain View) or Trade School (Texas Career Institute, Orchid Beauty School and Cake Carousel)**
- **Computer literacy training classes at Urban League**
- **ESL classes are taken at local Community College**
- **GED classes are taken at local Community College & L.I.F.T**
- **Tuition, books, uniforms, transportation are provided**

MOVING PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

- Connecting clients to resources in addition to job seeking or job training is critical to ensure success of increasing income
- Access to mainstream resources is the only way to permanently move someone out of poverty
- The Family Place provides access to:
 - Child Support
 - Child Care
 - TANF
 - Food Stamps/SNAP Program
 - WIC Program
 - Transportation
 - Medicaid/CHIP
 - Mental Health Services
 - Legal Services
 - Financial Planning
 - Housing Vouchers

FINDING A JOB

- Network with Career Services Agencies
- Keep listing of current job openings
- Work with local employers
- Transport women to interviews
- Assist with completion of job applications
- Conduct mock interviews
- Provide interview clothes
- In 2013, 8 job fairs were held(Target, Kelly Services, One Source, Texas Workforce, Hilton Hotel, Dallas Arboretum, Dallas Community College, and Aldi)

2014 OUTCOME RESULTS

- **84% (69)** of clients completed Job Readiness Training (based on total of 82 served)
- **68% (56)** clients are in the process of completing a Work Training Plan
- **Forty-Four** women are employed full time, part-time, and/or self-employed

Examples of employment opportunities include:

- Health Care, Retail, Customer Service, Insurance, and Warehousing



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