

**SUMMARY – COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS
COLORADO’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE /TANF
CO-LOCATION PROJECT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

The Co-Location Program (CLP) has demonstrated that increasing safety and self-sufficiency for domestic violence survivors reduces human and financial costs of domestic violence.

THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The financial cost of domestic violence (e.g., law enforcement, offender treatment, loss of productivity, medical treatment) is nearly \$10,000/ per victim per year. Add to that the cost borne by Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado (approximately \$5,550 cash assistance for one parent and two children) and other social services agencies in an attempt to mitigate the multiple, complex impact of DV on victims and their children, the price tag sores to \$15,000/ per victim per year. There is a high correlation between poverty and the incidents and severity of domestic violence. Furthermore, survivors are likely to experience poverty as they exhaust their financial and human resources attempting to escape violent relationships and to secure safety and stability for themselves and their children. With resources drained and the threat of increased violence, countless survivors and their children return to those violent relationships.

CO-LOCATION PROJECT

Approximately 75 percent of women who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are current or former victims of domestic violence. Despite this high number, many survivors do not receive the TANF and community resources that can assist them in achieving self-sufficiency. Because research shows that a partnership between TANF and community-based domestic violence programs (CBDVP) increases survivor’s safety and self-sufficiency, the CDHS Domestic Violence Program (DVP) launched the CLP. With a grant from the State Strategic Use Fund, the DVP Co-Location Project awarded a total of \$240,000 to six CBDVPs for a 10 ¾ month-long pilot project. The program implemented sustainable systemic change to enhance safety and self-sufficiency of survivors of domestic violence through collaborative partnerships between local CBDVPs and TANF/Colorado Works programs in 14 county departments of human/social services. The two entities in each county collaborated to enhance services to survivors and their children within each agency and throughout the county. Among the significant outcomes of this project were then numbers of people served. During the grant period, local CBDVPs provided services to 395 of the 552 survivors referred to them by their TANF partners. Additionally, the CBDVPs referred 1,425 survivors to their TANF partner

Although the grant period was 10 ¾ months (August 2009 – June 2010), because it took at least four months for such things as policies, procedures, and forms to be developed, the period in which survivors were actually served was about six months. Therefore, the system change accomplished and number of people served is even more impressive.

Cost Benefit Analysis¹

At the request of the Domestic Violence Program, graduate students at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work² conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the CLP. Using their conservative figure of \$9,500 as the cost of domestic violence per year for law enforcement, medical care, courts, etc., and the 395 survivors served by the CBDVPs, the researchers found that if only 28 (7%) of the 395 survivors were to permanently escape a domestic violence situation the cost savings to society would outweigh the cost of administering the project.

Using the estimated cost to TANF per victim per year (\$5,550 as described above), if only 47 (11%) of the 395 people served were to permanently escape a domestic violence situation the cost savings to TANF would outweigh the project cost.

Further analysis shows that, when TANF costs are added to the DU students' calculations ($\$9,454 + \$5,550 = \$15,000$), if just 17 people were to permanently escape a domestic violence situation the cost savings to society would outweigh the project cost.

² Emily Ashton, Emily Hill, Kaitlin Jones, and Allison Miller, under the supervision of Mike Cortés

CALCULATIONS - COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

COLORADO'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / TANF CO-LOCATION PROJECT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG TANF RECIPIENTS:

Estimated number of DV victims in Colorado per year = 31,228

| PER VICTIM PER YEAR COSTS | |
|---|---------------------|
| System costs / victim / year | |
| Law enforcement 911 DV calls | 6,320,876 |
| Law enforcement investigation & arrest | 6,509,960 |
| Court | 30,448,506 |
| Homicide investigation | 6,882,554 |
| Perpetrator treatment | 325,026 |
| Total | \$50,486,922 |
| System costs / victim / year (\$50,486,922 / 31,228 victims) | \$1,616.72 |

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| Victimization costs / victim / year | |
| Medical costs (i.e. emergency services, injury treatment, etc.) | 96,376,892 |
| Victim homicide costs | 105,191,084 |
| Victim employment productivity costs | 39,961,150 |
| Offender employment productivity costs | 3,201,466 |
| Total | \$244,730,592 |
| Victimization costs / victiim / year (\$24,730,592 / 31,228 victims) | \$7,836.90 |

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|---|----------------|
| System + Victimization costs / victim / year | \$9,454 |
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|---|----------------|
| TANF costs / victim / year | |
| TANF cash assistance per year (based on 1 parent with 2 children) | \$5,550 |

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|--|-----------------|
| System + Victimization + TANF costs / victim / year (\$9,454+\$5,550) | \$15,004 |
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| 395 survivors were referred to DV programs by TANF. The costs of those victims / year in Colorado. | |
| System and victimization cost (395 x \$9,454) | \$3,734,178 |
| TANF costs (395 x \$5,550) | \$2,192,250 |
| System + victimization + TANF (395 x \$15,004) | \$5,926,428 |

NUMBER AND PERCENT CALCULATIONS

What number and percent of people served by the CLP who escaped DV would demonstrate a cost-benefit with 395 people referred to & served by DV programs at a cost of \$260,000.

System and Victimization. These categories were used in the DU study. Dividing \$260,000 by the system and victimization costs of \$9,454 = 28. ∴ if **28 people** were to escape battering, the cost of the project would be approximately equal to the initial \$260,000 investment. Dividing 28 people by 395 = **7%** of 395 people served.

TANF costs. Dividing \$260,000 by the TANF costs of \$5,550 = 47. ∴ if **47 people** were to escape battering, the cost of the project would be approximately equal to the initial \$260,000 investment. Divide 47 people by 395 = **11%** of 395 people served.

System + Victimization + TANF costs. Dividing \$260,000 by the three category costs of \$15,004 = 17. ∴ if **17 people** were to escape battering, the cost of the project would be approximately equal to the initial \$260,000 investment. Dividing 17 people by 395 = **4%** of 395 people served.