



City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women



London N. Breed
Mayor

Blue Shield of California Foundation—Economic Security & Mobility Program
Department on the Status of Women Proposal

REQUEST INFORMATION

Amount Requested: \$200,000.00

Request Date: 7/6/2022

Length (in months) of Proposed Support/Grant Term: 24

Geographic Area Served by Request: San Francisco Bay Area

Geographic Area Served by Request (Additional): San Francisco Bay Area

PRIMARY POPULATION AND AREA SERVED

Primary Population Served:

This grant will serve individuals who are very low-income (0-30% of Area Median Income) and, should funding allow, also provide for low-income applicants (30-50% of Area Median Income). The pilot will prioritize women most in need. This includes but is not limited to: Black and Indigenous women, domestic violence survivors, human-trafficking survivors, justice-impacted women, those financially impacted by the pandemic, those disconnected from other benefits (i.e., justice-impacted individuals, individuals with experience of chronic homelessness, etc.), individuals with disabilities.

Primary Area Served:

City and County of San Francisco

Fiscal Year End (MM/DD): 06/30

PROJECT INFORMATION

Total Project Budget: \$200,000.00

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Needs Statement:

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and in 99 percent of these cases, financial abuse is one of the main reasons victims can't leave and remain in abusive relationships. While guaranteed income has been proven to be effective at reducing the racial wealth gap and improving well-being, we are interested to learn about an ecosystem of economic support for domestic violence survivors and opportunities to embed economic security programs within existing community-based organizations who provide wraparound services to survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women.

There is substantial need to support the economic empowerment of girls, women, and gender-nonbinary people as well as interventions to promote economic security for women who have been marginalized and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. COVID-19 has intensified financial, social, and home pressures for women, making those who were already on the margins even more vulnerable. This predominantly includes women of color and immigrant women who perform irregular work, such as domestic workers, nannies, in-home caregivers, house cleaners, or women working in restaurants, retail, and hospitality. Unlike most other recessions, this current iteration of economic downturn has shown that women have lost a larger share of jobs than men due to the COVID-19 crisis. This has been especially felt by women of color, who already comprised a larger share of low-wage jobs, faced greater gender pay gaps and higher rates of poverty. Research finds that the leading causes of women's lower success rates and higher dropouts in workforce development programs include lack of access to childcare, gender-based discrimination, harassment, and domestic violence; issues that often disproportionately affect women of color and transgender individuals.

Project Summary:

Funding from the Blue Shield of CA Foundation will enable Department on the Status of Women (the Department) to (1) evaluate the impact of economic supports such as guaranteed income and micro-grants on women's health, safety, and economic security; (2) advocate for the expansion of guaranteed income and/or micro-grants for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women; and (3) launch a micro-grant fund for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women.

Providing survivors with direct cash assistance has proven to contribute to health, safety, and economic recovery. These interventions also hold the potential to prevent significantly higher costs resulting from continued abuse such as housing costs, medical bills, credit card debt, etc.

The Department recently received funding through the CA Commission on the Status of Women to launch two guaranteed income pilot programs serving women who are Indigenous survivors of domestic violence and

justice-impacted mothers. There are disproportionately high levels of violence against Native American women, with approximately 50% of women and girls having experienced domestic or sexual violence. Furthermore, San Francisco is among the top 10 cities in the nation with the highest rate of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) cases. To date, Indigenous women, domestic violence survivors, and justice-impacted women have been left out of guaranteed income support efforts in San Francisco.

The Department will study the impacts of a variety of economic supports on women's health, safety, and ability to pursue education and entrepreneurship. While financial support in monthly guaranteed income payments have proven to be effective at addressing systemic issues that result from poverty, an emerging conversation from both victims of domestic violence, and marginalized communities generally, is the lack of access to capital needed for individuals to make transformational, economic class moving and life improving changes.

Proposed Key Objective 1:

By February 28, 2023, research team will finalize the evaluation plan that outlines a community-based, mixed-methods approach to analyze participant data and conduct qualitative research to measure the impact of guaranteed income, micro-grants, and savings matching on participants' safety, health, and ability to access educational or employment opportunities.

Proposed Key Objective 2:

By March 31, 2023, Department on the Status of Women will partner with a community-based organization to design and administer a micro-grant program awarding grants in the amount of \$2,500- \$10,000 to 20 survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women.

Proposed Key Objective 3:

By April 2023, Department on the Status of Women will partner with organizations to provide financial literacy education to 45 survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women and enroll graduates in a Savings Matching Program, providing survivors with up to a \$100/month match for a 12-month period.

Proposed Additional Objectives:

By September 30, 2024, the Department will publish the evaluation and key strategies for utilizing economic supports such as guaranteed income and micro-grants within the field of gender-based violence prevention. Evaluation will be disseminated to the public and policymakers at the state and local level with the aim of securing a funding stream to scale from pilot to policy.

MEASUREMENT - OUTCOME - IMPACT

Organizational Objectives / Grantmaking Priority Areas:

The Department on the Status of Women has identified three core service areas to catalyze equitable change: (1) Health and Safety, (2) Economic Security, and (3) Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment. These service areas allow for initiatives addressing the entire wellbeing of women and girls, promoting the most effective change. Please review our [Executive Summary](#) for additional information. This grant application aligns with Blue Shield of California Foundation's grantmaking priority to advance economic security for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women.

Project Outcomes:

- Support the financial needs of 65 survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and justice-impacted women.
- Connect program participants to community-based resources.
- Provide financial education to increase economic security for survivors.
- Evaluate the impact of different economic supports on survivor health, wealth, and safety.
- Inform policy advocacy efforts and departmental grantmaking priorities with findings or data.

Outcomes Measured:

The Department will administer guaranteed income, micro-grants, and administer a savings matching program and track direct impact on participants in the form of their:

- Ability to pay essential bills (Rent, phone, restitution, medical);
- Ability to support children (Basic needs, i.e., clothing, childcare cost above government assistance);
- Ability to afford reliable transportation to work/school (Bus, Muni, BART, Uber, Lyft);
- Ability to contribute to a savings plan (Secure savings for transition to stable/permanent housing, save for car);
- Ability to pursue education or work opportunities;
- # of applicants to the micro-grants program;
- # of women receiving micro-grants;
- # of women who successfully complete financial literacy course;
- # of women enrolled in the savings matching program; and,
- Key findings from the program evaluation.

Dissemination of Outcomes:

Outcomes from the program evaluation will be disseminated through the following mediums: publication of the report through the Department website and newsletter; an op-ed submitted to a major news publication such as the San Francisco Chronicle or Los Angeles Times; and presentation at a community forum and/or conference.