

GreenHouse17 Proposal

FY22 Extended Social Resource Grant Component

Overnight Emergency Shelter

1. General Shelter Information

Per KRS and KAR statutes, GreenHouse17 is the state-designated primary provider of domestic violence services in Lexington. The agency's 42-bed emergency shelter provides safety and protection from very real threats of harm to victims and their children. Last calendar year, Kentucky Court Records report 1,935 petitions for domestic violence or personal orders of protection were filed in Fayette County.

Victims self-initiate shelter intake, typically by calls to our 24-hour hotline or during court advocacy. Eligibility is determined by Category 4 of Federal Homeless Rule for fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic or dating violence. Immediate basic needs are met (clothes, hygiene, bedding, meals), while early services stabilize crisis (safety planning, protective orders, legal advocacy). As safety risks are mitigated, physical and emotional healing begin. Supportive housing, economic justice, and job readiness services encourage sufficiency and exit to permanent housing.

No limits on shelter stays are imposed. Return to shelter is encouraged should threats to a victim's safety escalate after exit.

Shelter services are trauma-informed. This best practice prioritizes dignity for victims, while focusing on strength-based response to safety and healing needs. Residents are provided copies of community living guidelines and rights to accessible services upon intake. Weekly "house" meetings and exit surveys engage residents in operation of the shelter. Several staff and governing board members identify as survivors of abuse. Training, certification, and partnerships assure cultural competency.

Shelter access and services are provided 24-hours a day, every day of the year by 22 full-time and 4 part-time staff. A full-time Program Manager oversees service delivery, while two full-time clerical staff support shelter business operations. A 4-person leadership team oversees programmatic strategies, community partnerships, and funding compliance.

2. Rapid Resolution, Housing Oriented

Risk for lethal violence increase when domestic violence victims flee abuse. Although physical safety must be the primary concern during crisis intervention and shelter intake, early discussions during calls to our 24-hour hotline include options for shelter diversion (family, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention). If diverted from shelter, victims are encouraged to access our legal, healing, and economic hardship services non-residentially.

When threats to safety require safe emergency shelter, adults and their children are assigned an advocate upon intake. Within 14 days of shelter stay, victims begin working with a larger team of advocates with commitment to healing, stability, and housing. Early housing-related services include Vi-SPDAT assessment; completion of paperwork; transportation advocacy and assistance; and financial assistance with fees for required documents. Morning, afternoon, and evening support groups encourage emotional healing and understanding of abuse dynamics.

As well-being improves, residents begin weekly meetings with a housing advocate to create housing plan and address barriers. Shelter staff meet weekly for case management review to address barriers and opportunities for resident housing based on statistical, observational, and anecdotal data.

Lexington Housing Authority reserves 24 permanent vouchers for domestic violence survivors who transition to KCADV Homes, a scattered-site housing launched four years ago with federal, state, and local support. GreenHouse17 also receives additional federal grant funding from the Office of Violence Against Women Transitional Housing Program for Victims of Domestic Violence and HUD Domestic Violence Bonus Grant, via a subcontract with Community Action Council, to support victims transitioning to housing after abuse.

3. Low-Barrier

GreenHouse17 applies a low-barrier, voluntary services philosophy. This approach adheres to Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV) Member Service Standards to eliminate barriers to shelter access:

- Self-defined family housed together.
- 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter intake, and flexible shelter access.
- Storage of resident belongings at shelter, other space on property, or temporary storage facility.
- Service animals welcomed.
- Kennels for family pets on shelter property, or option for pet foster families available, if victim prefers.
- Coordinated and community-based housing services integrated from shelter intake to exit.
- No-fee shelter and concomitant service model.
- No requirement for program participation or labor as condition of shelter, with exception of communal living chores.
- Although weapons, alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited on shelter property, drug testing is not required.

Residents agree to do no harm, to themselves or others, maintain confidentiality of residents and abide by community living expectations. Policy requires staff to make every effort to counsel residents not abiding by these expectations. Should behavior continue, policies require agency to provide ample notification of departure and assist with safe relocation. Residents are informed of grievance process upon intake and exit. Service referrals and continued access to non-shelter services always provided at voluntary or involuntary exit from shelter.

4. Capacity, Cost Effectiveness, & Budget

Complete this table	Total
Number of individual beds available to the general population (exclude beds reserved for/supported by Department of Corrections or other funding sources)	42
Number of units available for families, if applicable:	0
Funds requested from LFUCG:	190,000
Total budget for shelter program (all funding sources):	1,726,881
LFUCG investment per bed (Request/Total Beds):	4,523
LFUCG investment per unit, if applicable (Request/Total Units):	N/A
Total cost per bed (Total Budget/Total Beds):	41,116
Total cost per unit, if applicable (Total Budget/Total Units):	N/A
% LFUCG investment (LFUCG Request/Total Budget * 100):	11%

5. Staff Qualifications and Experience

Twenty full- and part-time staff focus on emergency shelter services. Program funding will specifically support a portion of personnel costs for the following five emergency shelter staff:

1. Bekah Fulcher (FT Family Advocate) – 18 years of direct victim service experience, Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Kentucky
2. Laura Arnsdorf (FT Family Advocate) – 5 years of direct victim service experience, Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Louisville
3. Chelsea Burke (FT Family Advocate) – 3 years of volunteer, crisis counselor, and victim advocate experience, attended Eastern Kentucky University
4. Sheena Adams (FT Family Advocate, Overnight Focus) – 4 years residential overnight management experience, prior emergency part-time crisis counselor
5. Stacy Sheakley (PT Family Advocate, Children's Focus) – 6 years of direct victim service experience, previous Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, Attended Marysville Community College

All shelter staff complete 40 hours of Certified Domestic Violence Advocate (CDVA) training conducted by the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence within first year of hire and maintain certification with 12 hours of continuing education each year. Darlene Thomas, Executive Director; Diane Fleet, Associate Director; and Ryan Koch, Program Manager contribute more than 50 collective years of domestic violence shelter programming experience and strengths-based supervision.

6. Partnership and Resource Leverage

GreenHouse17 services directly respond to violence prevention priorities of Community Wellness and Safety and high priorities related to shelter, housing, and public services for domestic violence victims in the Consolidated Plan.

Shelter staff forge informal and formal community partnerships to reduce barriers for victims, address systemic intersections, and avoid duplication of services. Examples of community consortia participation include Lexington-Fayette COC, Lexington Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition, Lexington Human Trafficking Task Force, and Lexington-Fayette Strangulation Task Force.

The shelter also maintains numerous reciprocal service referral agreements with medical, social, legal, governmental, sobriety/substance abuse, and mental health organizations. An abbreviated list includes Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, Ampersand, Hope Center Recovery Program for Women, The Nest Center for Women and Children, Lexington Housing Authority, Lexington Police Department, and Lexington Humane Society. Additionally, agency staff facilitate training events for more than professionals and community members each year to foster understanding and support for victim needs.

The agency's 15-member Board of Directors, representative of varied personal and professional experiences, provides fiscal and administrative oversight. Individual and group volunteers from local colleges, faith institutions, companies, and civic organizations provide more than 2,000 hours in-kind support for projects at shelter. A funding of federal, state, and local grants; individual and foundation gifts; special event fund raising; and sales of products from the agency's farm provides diverse revenue support.

7. Outreach and Inclusion Strategy

GreenHouse17 commits to inclusivity and accessibility. We have adopted a comprehensive non-discrimination and inclusion policy that exceeds federal requirements. Shelter staff are diverse in age, race, ethnicity, marital status, gender, sexual identity, body size, and educational background.

Our Limited English Policy recently was updated to outline processes that assure Meaningful Access, per measurements defined by the U.S. Department of Justice. Partnerships with Global Lex and Kentucky Refugee Ministries exemplify community partnerships. Brochures have been translated to Spanish, French, and Arabic. A Spanish bilingual advocate and on-demand interpreter/translation contracts assure service accessibility across more than a hundred languages.

Service publications and website include topics specific to LGBTQIA+ abuse, an advertisement in Kentucky Pink Pages, a directory of services published by Pride Community Organization Services (PCOS), provides further outreach.

Our crisis hotline is equipped to support communication with individuals who are deaf and hearing-impaired, while the agency's website is compatible with assistive reading software for individuals with visual impairment. Parking, walkways, entrances, and corridors are handicapped accessible and meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities. Recent renovation of the emergency shelter created a private accessible bed and bath suite for victims and families with specific health or other needs.

Shelter services respond to needs of persons living in poverty and economic distress. Budgeting, credit repair, free tax services, matched savings accounts, job training, emergency financial assistance, rental assistance, and other shelter services respond to these barriers.