

July 7, 2021

Ms. Kathi Cauley  
1541 Annex Road  
Jefferson, WI 53549

Dear Ms. Cauley and the Jefferson County Human Services Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a request for financial support from Jefferson County to directly help people affected by violence in Jefferson County. New Beginnings APFV provides supportive services and advocacy for adult and child victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Additionally, we assist and support their families. This includes safety planning, legal advocacy, support groups, individual counseling with a licensed professional counselor, medical advocacy, housing advocacy, and help navigating the criminal justice system as a victim/survivor and the civil courts for restraining orders when protection against further harm is needed.

New Beginnings APFV also helps victims of human trafficking, stalking and harassment, plus the agency provides awareness and prevention education in schools throughout Walworth and Jefferson Counties on the topics of sexual abuse, domestic violence, healthy relationships, bullying and keeping your body safe (for young children). All of New Beginnings APFV's services are free and confidential.

Jefferson County funding could make a **huge** impact on victims' lives. Often families who are coping with domestic violence face economic struggles, especially when they must leave the family home to stay safe. I have attached a copy of our 2020 Annual Audit as I want to be 100% transparent with you as we continue to partner. Previously I had sent our 2020 Annual Report but would be happy to re-send if needed.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

*Suzi Schoenhof*

Executive Director



# New Beginnings

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APFV

## Jefferson County Request for Funding

July 2021

**Name of Agency:** New Beginnings APFV

**Agency Contact:** Suzi Schoenhof

**Title:** Executive Director

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**Website:** [www.newbeginningswalworth.com](http://www.newbeginningswalworth.com)

**Number of years in existence:** 43

**Agency mission:** To provide safety, advocacy and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, harassment and stalking, as well as their affected family members, in Walworth & Jefferson counties. Clients range in age from 3 to 100. All services are free and confidential. Our agency also educates the community—from school children to elders—on these critical issues.

**Funding Requested:** \$20,000

**Funding Requested for:** Crime Victim Services

### **Program Description:**

New Beginnings provides help for victims of deeply personal crimes, whether the victim is in crisis and needs immediate help getting to safety, or if the person wants to talk with someone who understands the effects of trauma. Services range from safety planning and legal advocacy to support groups and individual counseling with a licensed professional.

No one expected their life to turn out this way: impacted by a crime so personal that the emotional effects often last years longer than the physical. It's devastating. New Beginnings helps recent victims as well as those who are still trying to recover from past abuse. We help people make the transform from victims to survivors, which is empowering.

### **Services for adults:**

- Crisis counseling for people who are in danger and need help identifying their options. Program includes a 24-hour hot line.
- Assistance finding safe emergency housing on a short-term basis (1 night to a few weeks), often in a local hotel because shelters within 50 miles are all full. New Beginnings pays for the hotel as well as emergency food and gas.
- Advocacy in Civil Court for victims seeking a restraining order. An advocate helps the client fill out the paperwork and write up their story—what happened recently that justifies the request for a temporary restraining order. The advocate then coaches the client about court preparation, evidence submission, cross examination and how to summarizing a case to a judge or court commissioner. (Most clients cannot afford an attorney, so they must represent themselves.) New Beginnings assists with financial attorney fees when possible. The advocate accompanies the victim to court and coaches her by writing notes, but the advocate cannot speak on a victim's behalf.
- Legal advocacy in the criminal courts, such as attending a hearing on a victim's behalf or with the victim to explain court proceedings or attending a meeting with the victim and a law enforcement investigator.
- Assistance locating longer term housing by connecting clients with the local resources.
- Medical advocacy for sexual assault victims who undergo a rape exam to make sure their body is in healthy condition and collect forensic evidence for prosecution.
- Individual counseling from one of two licensed counselors, both of whom utilize best practices of trauma-informed care, which means using short-term strategies to deal with the crises and encouraging development and use of longer-term coping skills.
- Support groups for child and adult survivors of domestic violence.
- Spanish-speaking advocates who provide every service that is offered in English by a native Spanish-speaker who understands cultural implications.
- Case management to meet the victim at her/his level and explain next steps and options.

### **Services for children:**

- Advocacy for children and parents when a child is interviewed at the Tree House Child Advocacy Center when it is suspected a child has been the victim of physical or sexual abuse or has witnessed domestic violence.
- Support groups for children age 5-10 who have experienced or witnessed abuse, so they can learn about healthy relationships, how to identify and express their feelings, and to tell a trusted adult when something is wrong.
- Support groups for teens who have been in abusive relationships or are at risk of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual abuse, stalking, harassment or human trafficking.
- Individual counseling for teen victims
- Legal advocacy when a child has been victimized and needs a restraining order for safety.
- Age-appropriate prevention education at schools—from preschool through college—from small groups to large assemblies.

**Amount of Funding Requested:** \$20,000, which includes \$10,000 in funding for the much-needed victim services mentioned above and an allocation of \$10,000 for staff salaries to offer the programs listed above.

### **Other sources of funding** New Beginnings receives:

Federal grants under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) program, both administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Crime Victim Services.

A state grant for Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) from the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Crime Victim Services.

A state grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to support families affected by domestic violence.

United Way grants from both Jefferson and Walworth Counties.

A community grant from Walworth County and Jefferson County.

Individual donations plus awards from two community foundations.

\*Fundraising efforts in 2020 included our first virtual event (Victory of Violence – Move to end abuse). We did well and with the help of event sponsors (many in Jefferson County) We raised \$8,000. We also held a day of Giving Campaign and raised nearly \$2,500. We partnered with TNT Ace Hardware in Delavan and raised nearly \$800 with that domestic abuse awareness rally. We received an additional \$8,000 from Fort Atkinson Community grant this year which brought our grand total from them to a whopping \$10,000! We proved our sustainability plan was well implemented.

### **Other providers in our community**

Although counties surrounding Jefferson assist where they are able, since the closing of PADA, New Beginnings APFV is the sole provider of direct services specifically for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in the southern portion of Jefferson County. New Beginnings APFV began as a domestic violence-only agency in 1978 but expanded to help sexual assault victims in the year 2001. That includes children, adults and elders. We work closely with PAVE in Beaver Dam, to meet the needs of victims in Jefferson County.

New Beginnings does not provide individual counseling for young children, however several of our clients are teenagers coping with the trauma caused by domestic or sexual abuse. Our agency provides support groups focusing on areas of need and by age of the victim.

### **Service Area and client demographics-**

Our agency helped and supported 1245 victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault in 2019 in Walworth and Jefferson Counties. In 2020, we served 776 victims. Additionally, we answered 792 crisis calls Our 2020 numbers were skewed. We believe between a worldwide pandemic, safer at home orders, job loss, financial constraints and illness, we received less traffic. We had projected an increase of 4-5 % growth. This did not happen in 2020.

The victims we serve: 65% of our clients are below the federal poverty level. In 2020, 71% of our clients were female and 71% of our clients were white. \*There are no fees for services from New Beginnings, including counseling. New Beginnings is very specific about many things that will NOT play a factor in receiving services including: gender, sexual orientation, age, sexual identification, political beliefs, race, heritage, citizenship and income. The reality is that people

who can afford private attorneys and counselors do not often seek services at New Beginnings APFV.

### **Who receives our program services?**

Our program assists anyone who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking or human trafficking and anyone related to or impacted by an abuse victim. For example, in a case where a child is sexually abused by a family friend, the parents of that child are what is called “secondary victims.” A parent may feel enormous guilt for not seeing signs the child was being abused and for trusting the friend.

This can be true of spouses, partners, siblings, etc. They share part of the trauma inflicted on the victim. Some victims experience problems with relationships later in life, years after the abuse has ended. New Beginnings helps those people as well. Our grants do not allow us to directly help perpetrators of violence. We do not offer services to offenders but will offer referrals.

New Beginnings was created to serve residents of Walworth County and later Jefferson County. However, if someone lives within driving distance, we will still help them. We do not turn people away. About 98% of our clients are local and are from either Walworth or Jefferson Counties.

New Beginnings is proud to offer all of its services in both English and Spanish. Language is not a barrier. Two of our staff are native Spanish speakers, and a third is a licensed interpreter.

New Beginnings provides financial assistance in several forms to clients who are low income. That includes:

- Emergency shelter at local hotels for those fleeing violence at no cost to the client.
- Gas cards to drive to our offices for legal advocacy, support groups or individual counseling. (Some clients don't have vehicles, but a \$5 or \$10 gas card provides incentive for a friend or neighbor to provide the ride.)
- Gas cards to drive to Job Center to discuss employment options, to the Walworth & Jefferson County Departments of Health & Human Services for additional services, as well as to the Judicial Center for court proceedings or meetings with the DA's Office.
- New Beginnings also provides a limited number of vouchers for the county's shared taxi service, grocery cards for families fleeing domestic violence, and vouchers to Goodwill and the Clothing Outreach Center.
- Periodically we are able to give Walmart gift cards to families that need cleaning supplies or other essential household items.
- Our agency uses federal grant and other funds to pay for legal services through Legal Action of Wisconsin for a very limited number of clients each year. These are people who have complex restraining orders and/or emergency custody and placement issues related to domestic violence or sexual assault. (New Beginnings has a \$20,000 contract with Legal Action each year. All requests must be authorized by New Beginnings' Director.)
- New Beginnings APFV also provides referral to other agencies and groups that help low-income residents.

## **Our Jefferson County Team**

- Carmen Garces heads into her 8<sup>th</sup> year with New Beginnings APFV. She is a bilingual Licensed Professional Counselor/Advocate. She and her husband reside in Fort Atkinson and her husband's family has operated a community-based business there for generations.
- Araceli Wence is entering her 9<sup>th</sup> year with New Beginnings APFV. Araceli is a bilingual Crime Victim Advocate who has resided in Whitewater for the past 10 years. She is a member of WUL, Women of Color and sits on the Board of La Connexiones Latinas.
- Alejandra Munoz is our newest team member, joining us in May 2020. She is a bilingual Crime Victim Advocate. Alejandra resides in Jefferson with her family. She had previously worked at PADA and is dedicated to serving victims in our community. She is well versed and a knowledgeable addition to our team.
- Jessica Hernandez is a recent UWW graduate. In May 2021, Jessica accepted the part-time Jefferson area Crime Victim Advocate role as she completes her Master's degree.
- I am the Director at New Beginnings APFV since March 16, 2020. I have been in the field of Social Services for 33 years and am still as passionate as ever. I sit on the Social Worker Advisory Board at UWW as well as participate in the monthly SAPA meetings at UWW. I participate in quarterly United Way of Walworth/Jefferson County meetings and attend the monthly Jefferson County Chief and Sheriff's Meetings. I am also a member of the Southeastern Regional Director's Meetings. I routinely work from our Whitewater office.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to read about New Beginnings APFV, our clients, our team and our organization's efforts to ensure that families impacted by domestic and sexual violence receive the help they need to break the cycle of abuse. Without intervention, the cycle continues from one generation to the next. New Beginnings looks forward to strengthening our partnership and our involvement with Jefferson County.

*Suzi Schoenhoft* - Executive Director

# JEFFERSON COUNTY HOUSING ISSUES

In 2021

## Presenting problem

UW Whitewater College of Business and Economics Jefferson County Housing Report from February of 2021:

1. Our results do suggest a significant shortage of housing that is affordable to income constrained households.
2. The available months' supply of housing and price of homes overtime indicate high demand for housing in the county which is not being met by current supply
3. ALICE data reflects a large number of households in lower income brackets lacked access to adequate housing.
4. Comparison of new housing construction, building permits, population growth, and other related projections suggest that the current shortage will continue without intervention.

## Department Team Data

- We need better data collection
- Child and Family Division has 32/223 families that are experiencing homelessness or 14.3%
- Behavioral Health: Outpatient Clinic reports approximately 10% of people open for services are people who are homeless; CCS reports the same; and CCS and CSP at time of admission note the majority of people are homeless.
- Each team reports a substantial increase in time spent preventing evictions and finding housing. Staff time in the HOPE program has increased significantly

### Number of People admitted to the Lueder House who are homeless:

2018

35% of people admitted were homeless

2019

33% of people admitted were homeless

2020

41% of people admitted were homeless

2021

50% of people admitted were homeless

## Data from schools: number of youth who are homeless

- Whitewater : 31 in 2016; 48 in 2017; 67 in 2018; 72 in 2019
- Watertown: 22 in 2017; 40 in 2018; 28 in 2019; 42 in 2020; and 28 in 2021
- Jefferson: 90 in 2020; and 75 in 2021
- DPI report requested; some data on site indicates overall increase in the number o of students who are homeless and the number of unaccompanied youth.

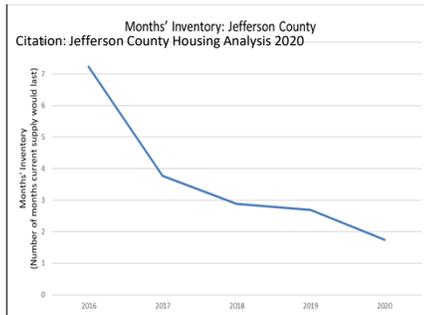
## Department Costs for housing are Rising

Row Labels	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
January	6,516	19,810	13,528	39,853
February	1,684	2,184	10,968	14,836
March	4,818	11,901	14,651	31,370
April	3,820	3,915	11,166	18,901
May	3,580	6,135	20,587	30,302
June	5,827	6,775	1,735	14,337
July	10,045	6,665		16,710
August	8,602	1,446		10,048
September	9,938	8,817		18,754
October	10,730	14,967		25,697
November	6,973	5,325		12,298
December	2,175	(2,227)		(52)
Grand Total	74,707	85,713	72,634	233,055

Jefferson County Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Disparities

•Severe Housing Problems

- Jefferson County percentage of those experiencing a severe housing problem is 12% compared to other counties around the United States which is 9%
- Citation: County Health Rankings 2021

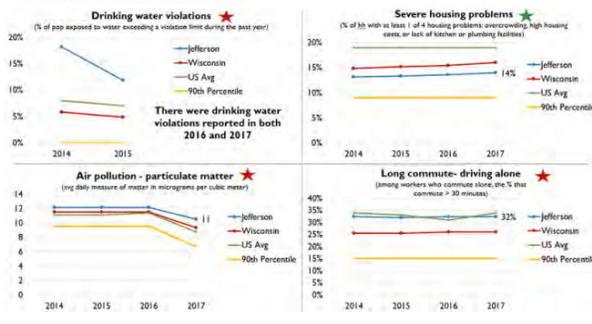


Citation: Jefferson County Housing Analysis 2020

This graph shows how many months the current supply of houses will be able to support the number of individuals who need houses. The housing demand is greater than the housing supply.

Physical Environment

Physical environment contains four measures in the category and accounts for 10% of the County rankings. Jefferson County ranked 66th out of 72 Wisconsin counties in physical environment. This is by far the most challenging category for Jefferson County.

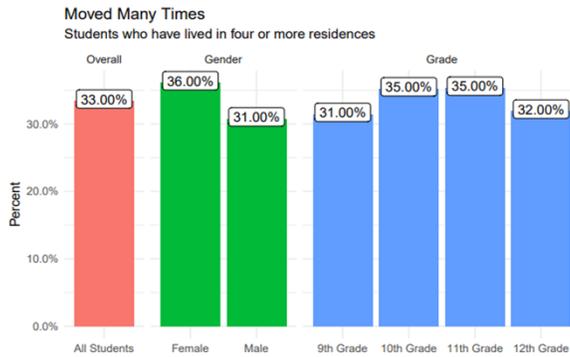


Citation: Fort HealthCare Community Health Needs Assessment 2018

- Decreased Housing Affordability
  - A shortage of housing leads to less affordable housing overall
  - Lower income households face unique challenges
  - Shortage may be affecting affordable homes more
  - Citation: Jefferson County Housing Analysis 2020

### Access to Food and Housing

Access to stable housing can have a tremendous impact on students' health and academic success. A move or other change of housing is a significant transition, even if the move is voluntary and the student is well supported. Students who are forced to move often—due to eviction, abuse, or other situations—obviously face significant risks. The 2019 YRBS asked students to report on the total number of residences they have had in their lifetime. The chart below shows the percent of students indicating four or more residences.



Citation: YRBS report for  
Jefferson County 2018-2019

## Salvation Army funding

- Jefferson County Human Services Data:
  - Salvation Army Motel Vouchers through May of each year:
    - 2019: \$4936
    - 2020: \$4855
    - 2021: \$8084
- Now out of funding for 2021

## Housing Initiatives:

### HOPE

52 consumers served in last 10 months:

- 12 Found permanent housing
- 34 Found temporary housing
- 6 Unknown
- 20 Referrals to OI with 14 people employed there

19 People with other jobs/income

### Little House

Served 5 families

Total of 10 children that were maintained as in-home status or with a relative. Zero children ended up in care after exiting the house and moved to a permanent residence. We have done individual situations here and there with landlords or agencies for apt, ILP etc. that have prevented placement and worked great

We do pay the utilities – gas and electric. We also incurred \$2585 in various repair costs in 2020 and \$805 this year so far.

## Opportunities Inc Tri-Plexes:

Presently:

- Five of six units occupied
- All five were situations where alternate care placements were prevented
- One person moved there from a \$5000+ per month placement

Costs:

The rent is \$3500 per month. There are four, 2 bedrooms (\$675 each) and two efficiency units (\$400 each).

We don't pay the utilities. The tenants are supposed to pay those. Every so often, we pay a water bill to keep the water turned on. For the water bills, we've paid \$212.45 so far this year; \$246.72 last year; and \$445.53 in 2019.

## Possible Solutions:

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: Coordinated Response; Housing as the Solution; Assistance for the most Vulnerable; Crisis Response; and Increasing Employment and Income
- Community Action Coalition
- Housing First
- HMO's paying for housing: housing as a social determinant of health
- Landlord and/or Ownership arrangements
- Political Will: our Housing Summit from October 2017