

*Annual Programming and Services Report 2023*



**If You Need Help, Please Contact Us**

*All Services are Confidential and Free of Charge*

**Office Line and 24-Hour Crisis Line:**

**Please call - (651) 645-2824**

Toll-Free: 888-575-3367

*You will be treated Kindly and with Respect*

# The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

## *Our Mission*

The Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) exists to eliminate domestic violence, and the social and system responses which condone or allow its oppression. Our organization believes that every victim has the right to safety and obtain the critical support and services that they and their children deserve. We affirm that victims of domestic abuse must be free to make their own choices, have the right to dignity and possess the capacity to make sound decisions if free from the violence that obstructs these choices.

We further believe that regardless of gender, race, socioeconomic background, age, mental and physical ability, sexual identity or orientation, gender identity, spiritual belief, or partner/marital status, no one has the right to abuse another person, and no one deserves to be abused.

At the center of our work is the belief that our programs and services should never accommodate domestic violence and oppression but work to end it.

## *History*

Since 1984, SPIP has been extremely effective in the provision of services for victims, successful and life-saving outcomes for victims, building collaborations, creating systemic change, and serving traditionally underserved populations through culturally-linguistically appropriate services. SPIP reaches out directly to victims with their services, 24-hours a day/7-days a week. SPIP is a local, state-wide, and national leader in developing services and models that improve safety and services for victims.

Since our inception, SPIP has ensured the provision of legal, crisis and transitional advocacy services to victims, and that they and their families (particularly traditionally marginalized) receive safety and support from government and community-based systems (i.e., criminal justice, housing, financial, healthcare, legal support, etc.). SPIP's rich collaborative history with justice systems, medical providers, government entities, spiritual groups, teaching institutions, community programs and in working with diverse communities, have changed the way our community responds to domestic violence.

## *Service Area and Locations*

SPIP services the city of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Our primary office location of our multi-propose building (for serving victims) is at 394 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul/Ramsey County. SPIP also manages and staffs Bridges to Safety – a multi-service victim service center located in the Ramsey County Court House in downtown St. Paul. Staff also brings services directly to victims throughout St. Paul/Ramsey County. We work from the premise that **in order to be successful, services must be brought directly to the victims - enabling our advocates to successfully reach and serve thousands of victims who may not have ever known help was available.**

# The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

## *Highlights of Services*

### **Highlights of Acute Intervention and Transitional Services. Over 6,200 victims and their children receive direct services. Annually -**

Over **4,700** victims receive crisis legal advocacy and critical support services immediately following a domestic assault.

Over **1,400** First Light Team home-visits/contacts for victims at elevated risk of imminent harm

Over **1,000** victims receive SPIP attorney's advice and representation, or referrals on legal matters.

Over **4,200** victims receive civil and family court advocacy services and information.

Over **2,617** victims are assisted in securing Orders for Protections (OFPs)

Over **2,050** victims' households received assistance in securing or maintaining housing.

Over **10,000** calls for support, information, and referrals on our 24- hour crisis line

Over **600** hospital/clinic patients (who identify or are identified as victims) receive advocacy services.

Over **6,000** victims and their children receive critical transitional services (housing, basic needs, counseling , etc.) in meeting their immediate & long-term needs.

## *All Services are Confidential and Free of Charge*

- 24-Hour Crisis Line
- 24-Hour Acute Intervention Advocacy Services
- Outreach to Victims Immediately following an Assault.
- Legal Advocacy throughout the Criminal Justice System process
- Multi-lingual Victim Support Groups
- Bridges to Safety Victim Service Center
- Community Outreach and Education Programming
- Family Transitional Services
- Civil Legal Attorney Program
- Latinx, new Immigrants & Refugee Services
- Muslim Victims Outreach Program
- Older Victim's Program
- Southeast Asian Victim Services
- Hospital/Clinic Advocacy Program
- System Change Advocacy Program
- St. Paul/National Blueprint for Safety
- Children & Adolescent/Young Adult Services
- In-Circled Groups for highly lethal offenders.

# The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

## *Who We Serve*

SPIP serves victims and their children, who have suffered isolation, physical and mental abuse, are in danger and live-in genuine fear, and are at imminent risk of homelessness.

- Over 72% are Indigenous, people of color, refugees/immigrants.
- The majority have dependent children, with 64% of those having one to two children; 32% two to four children, and over 6% five or more children.
- Ninety-six percent identified as female and 4% identified as male.
- Participants' Race/Ethnicity = 13% Hispanic/Latinx; 38% African American; 2% American Indian; 16% Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander; 27% European American; 4% Multi-racial.
- 10% were homeless and over 80% were assisted in sustaining their housing.
- 6% identified as LGBTQIA+, 19% were new immigrants/refugees; 16% had limited English proficiency, and 4% had a physical/mental disability.
- Age ranges of participants served: 17yrs or younger <1%; 18-29yrs 34%; 30-44yrs 33%; 45-64yrs 27%; 65+yrs 5%, and age unknown 1%.
- Estimated 80% of the participants were from St. Paul and 20% from Suburban Ramsey County.
- The majority were at or below the poverty level when attempting to be free of the abusive situation.

## *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

SPIP recognizes that the provision of culturally appropriate and diverse programming helps build resiliency, fosters dignity, and creates a sense of belonging and trust. Our agency understands that people have a worldview through which they filter their environment- that will influence how people both react to and benefit from our agency. For victims who identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ the impact of domestic violence, and the challenges of accessing help or using the criminal justice system are augmented.

Our culturally and linguistically specific services serve mono-lingual Spanish-, Hmong-, Karen-, Somali, Italian-, and Croatian- speaking and older victims. Multi-lingual and Older victim support groups are offered; as are Latinx, Southeast Asian, Muslim, and immigrant domestic violence specific programming and services.

SPIP materials are available in Spanish, English, Hmong, Somali, Russian, Cambodian and Vietnamese, and large font for visually impaired victims. The 24-hour crisis line utilizes multilingual staff and the language line as needed.

We utilize community-based approaches to ensure victims and their families receive culturally appropriate community support, while at the same time increasing the scope of their safety net.

# The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

## *Our Staff*

SPIP strives to ensure diverse, multilingual, and multi-cultural services are delivered by staff who intimately understand the realities of the people we serve. SPIP's has a staff of 21 employees and an equivalent of 19 FTEs. Over 70% of our direct service staff reflects BI-POC communities.

Staff is comprised of African, Latinx, European and Southeast Asian American ethnic backgrounds, as well as elders, differing abilities, LGBTQIA+, new immigrants, & domestic abuse survivors; in which English, Croatian, Spanish, Hmong, French, Serbian, Bosnian, Russian and Somali languages are spoken.

SPIP's Management Team (in which the majority provide direct services) is diverse in age, race, culture, spiritual beliefs, lifestyles and backgrounds; acting as an instrument support and inspiration for the organization; enriching our capacity to serve victims and work to end domestic violence.

## *Our Collaborative Work*

**Blueprint for Safety (BP)** - Created a St. Paul and National comprehensive guide for the justice systems response to domestic violence cases from 911 to final case disposition. Outcomes:

- Increased criminal justice system's accessibility, accountability and protections to all domestic abuse victims (and their children).
- Improved response of intervening practitioners to ensure consistency with the level of violence of the crime/incident.
- Monitoring how cases are handled from 911 through probation.
- Victim Focus Groups providing input on the analysis of and improvements for BP.
- Training Advocates and Justice System Workers locally and nationally.
- Continued Development of Policies to increase victim safety and offender accountability.
- Cross-Discipline-Coordination in case processing and legal advocacy involvement.
- Consequences and the Disparity of Impact ensuring victims and offenders are responded to according to the law- not influenced by implicit or explicit bias.

**Blueprint for Safety Firearms Task Force** - There is an alarming correlation between perpetrators who possess firearms and domestic homicides, as well as to other forms of gun violence.

- The BP Steering Committee created a task force to develop a **model for Firearms Prohibition for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence** - to ensure more effective enforcement of existing laws, and the development of protocols and practices in the civil and criminal justice systems to deter and prevent domestic homicides and the use of firearms to intimidate and threaten victims.
- The model has been successfully implemented in Civil Court to close the gap between the number of Orders for Protections issued and the number of firearms surrendered from potentially dangerous perpetrators. The Task force is currently developing a model for Criminal Court.

## The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

*Firearm Task Force members include members from SPIP, Court Administration, Ramsey Probation, St. Paul Police, St. Paul City Attorneys, Ramsey County Attorneys, Ramsey County Sheriff's, Public Defenders, Justice Point, Battered Women's Justice Project, the Bench and the Blueprint for Safety Coordinator.*

**The "FLARE-UP" Project** –SPPD Investigator and SPIP Advocate Team focuses on highly lethal domestic cases and conducts daily home visits to victims. Investigator meets with the victim- putting safety first and further investigating the case. Advocate meets with victim separately- discuss confidentiality, SPIP's services, victim's rights, the Justice System process and safety planning. Follow-up services continue through SPIP. Annually review over 2000 reports.

Probation and Police reinstate conducting welfare checks to locate offenders in violation of Protection Orders and meet with victims to build trust.

**The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team** - Focuses on reducing domestic homicides through a heightened collaboration and concentration on highly lethal offenders and victims at high-risk of imminent harm or murder; creating a monthly mechanism for intensified/ongoing collaboration to ultimately reduce highly lethal domestic crimes.

**The Domestic Homicide Review Committee** – Reviews all the interactions domestic homicide victims and their perpetrators had with the Justice System to identify potential gaps and/or patterns and recommends and implements changes as needed.

- Members are the St. Paul Police Department, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Ramsey County Probation, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and SPIP. The Bench was also involved in the Homicide Review Committee.

**The Partnership for Domestic Abuse Service** collaborates to identify, create and sustain innovative responses that assure a future free of violence.

**PDAS Partners** include SPIP, Asian Women United of MN, Esperanza United, FamilyWise Services, St. Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Attorney's, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, Second Judicial District Court, Tubman, Women's Advocates, Ramsey County Probation, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, and Women of Nations.

Two examples of PDAS' collaborative successes –

- **Bridges to Safety (BTS) Victim Services Center** - a comprehensive, centrally located, multi-discipline victim service center dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence and their children. BTS offers victims a multitude of critical, culturally diverse, community, and government services under one roof, in a safe, secure location. At the core of those services is access to legal advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, and filing protective orders.

- **Mental Health Service Delivery Model** - encompasses strategies, resources, education and cross-training to ensure each of our PDAS partners enhances their abilities to effectively respond to victims of domestic abuse experiencing mental health challenges. Model includes developing a network of mental health providers, cultural considerations, materials and effective tools, etc.