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SLASHED FUNDING CUTS SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Local Non-Profits Hit Hard By Cuts In Federal Funding

Spokane, WA, May 23, 2016– This month Transitions and the YWCA received formal notice that HUD will not be funding \$233,217 in services for survivors of domestic violence in the coming year. As HUD continues to restrict funding to specific types of housing programs, units available to assist women, particularly survivors of domestic violence have been cut.

Last fall, HUD funds were not reinstated to programs at the YWCA. This loss of \$155,796 particularly impacted support services. HUD was clear that this type of service was no longer something they were interested in funding, despite the crises faced by women fleeing domestic violence.

And just this month, came another blow to the safety net for victims when funds were eliminated for both the YWCA's transitional housing and Transitions' Miryam's House and Transitional Living Center. Between the two programs, nearly 60 families were impacted with 90% of the women they serve attempting to stabilize after fleeing domestic violence. 16 units lost in the last month. Major support services lost a few months earlier.

"Survivors face a myriad of challenges when trying to rebuild their lives after experiencing family violence. These barriers not only include emergency shelter and transitional housing historically funded by HUD, but also the work readiness supports a woman needs to be able to access permanent housing. With the elimination of supportive services dollars and now the loss of funding for transitional housing survivors are left with fewer and fewer options in what is already a highly desperate moment in their lives."-said Regina Malveaux, YWCA Chief Executive Officer

Transitions is working to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, WA. To achieve this mission we operate Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, Educare and The New Leaf Bakery Café; providing safety, support and opportunities to learn skills for success. The YWCA of Spokane is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women providing safe shelter, counseling, legal services, job readiness, and children's services nearly 16,000 women and children annually.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Mary Tracey at 509-328-6702 or email at mtracey@help4women.org.