

CONTRACT ROUTING FORM

1. Complete the information below BEFORE printing and completing items 2 through 7. Items in red are required.

Department: Court-related Programs

Department contract file name (use effective date): Family Visitation: _Court Programs_03012023

Project Code: Fam Visitation_ Court Programs 03012023

Contract type: MOU/MOA

Contracted Services/Goods: agreement w county partners

Contract Component: Other

Change Order Number/Addendum Number: Click here to enter text.

Vendor Name: Salvation Army

Effective Date: 10.01.2024

Approved by: County Manager

Date approved by the BOC: Click here to enter text.

Ending Date: Click here to enter a date.

Total Amount: \$600,000.00 grant application

Please Return Contract to:

Name: Renita Foxx

Email: renita.foxx@chathamcounty
nc.gov

Special Instructions for Clerks

Office:

2. Department Head or his/her designee has read the contract in its entirety.

By: Renita Foxx (Department Head signature required)

3. County Attorney has reviewed and approved the contract

County Attorney has reviewed and rejects the contract Reason: _____

This is an automatic renewal and does not require approval from the County Attorney: Yes No



If this box is checked the County Attorney's Office has reviewed the contract but has not made needed changes to protect the County because the contract is a sole source contract and the services required by the County are not available from another vendor.

4. Technical/MIS Advisor has reviewed the contract if applicable. Yes No

5. Vendor has signed the contract. Yes No

6. A budget amendment is necessary before approval. Yes No

If budget amendment is necessary, please attach to this form.

7. Approval

Requires approval by the BOC - contracts over \$100,000.00. Follow Board submission guidelines.

Requires approval by the Manager – contracts \$100,000 or less.

8. Submit to Clerk.

Clerk's Office Only

Finance Officer has signed the contract

The Finance Officer is not required to sign the contract

Memorandum of Understanding
OVW 2024 Justice for Families Program

Chatham County Government with Family Visitation Services of Chatham County (FVS), Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services (CFVP), Second Bloom of Chatham (SBC), the Judicial 15B Courts, Legal Aid of North Carolina – Central Carolina (LA), and Child Protective Services of the Department of Social Services (DSS), have come together to make an application for the OVW Justice for Families Program (JFF) for fiscal year 2024.

These partners have entered into a collaborative agreement in which Chatham County Government will be the lead agency and named applicant and other agencies will be partners in this application. The partners desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative effort. The application prepared and approved by these partners is to be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before January 30, 2024.

I. History of Collaboration

In 2002, above-referenced Chatham County agencies identified the lack of safe and effective visitation and exchanges of children for families impacted by domestic violence. Partnering organizations collaborated and developed the application for the pilot OVW Safe Havens grant. The supervised visitation program opened in 2003 as a result of that award, and the Consulting Committee, comprised of representatives from partnering organizations has been actively involved in all aspects of making FVS operational and sustainable with subsequent awards. Partners collaborated for six subsequent OVW Safe Haven/Justice for Families awards, including the current 2021 JFF award, and thirteen NC Governor’s Crime Commission grants for VOCA or VAWA funding.

Collaborative partners and community agencies have strong history of working together to provide comprehensive services for domestic violence victims and their families. The FVS Project Director serves on several community agency boards and committees. For the last 18 years Chatham County was awarded VAWA grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders. Second Bloom of Chatham is a relatively new nonprofit program, providing support and advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. SB was organized in 2017 to replace a now-defunct Chatham agency. At that time the Chatham County Manager’s Office recognized the significant gap in services when the former program closed, and

the County formed and funded an agency (CFVP) within the Court Programs Department, providing victim advocates for safety planning, resource referral, and protection order assistance. CFVP and SB have been collaborating to meet needs of victims and their families, including development of a 24/7 crisis line, training for volunteers, and providing supportive services. Legal Aid and DSS have similarly demonstrated valuable and mutual resources, including legal information, policy formation, and staff trainings, and resource referrals.

II. **Roles and Responsibilities of the Partner Agencies**

Family Visitation Services of Chatham County is an agency with the Chatham County Government Court Programs. FVS will implement the project and provide supervised visitation services to families impacted by domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. FVS will support and develop the collaborative work of partners for this project. The Project Director will supervise all FVS activities, assist victims with community referrals, convene Consulting Committee meetings, submit program evaluation and reports as required by the grantor, seek sustained funding for the project, and ensure policies and practice ensure the confidentiality and safety of families served with in the FVS program. Agency protocol and procedures will be compliant with the Guiding Principles of Safe Havens, Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program.

Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services is another program within the Court Related Programs of Chatham County Government. The Project Director of CFVPS also serves as FVS Project Director, and is supervised by the Court Programs Director. CFVPS will be represented on the Consulting Committee. The agency will provide domestic violence and sexual assault training for FVS staff and will advocate for judges, attorneys, and clients to utilize FVS services when applicable. The agency will assist FVS in developing safety plans for clients, assist in client intakes as appropriate, and provide community resource referrals.

Second Bloom of Chatham will serve on the Consulting Committee, provide domestic violence and sexual assault training for FVS staff and will advocate for judges, attorneys, and clients to utilize FVS services when applicable. The agency will assist FVS in developing safety plans for clients, identify and help secure resources for FVS clients, and collaborate for outreach activities.

Judicial District 15B Courts will serve on the Consulting Committee and will submit referrals and relevant case information to FVS. The Chief District Court Judge will promote the utilization of FVS in appropriate cases. FVS will attend judicial meetings as requested to provide resources and educate court personnel regarding available services, and fund training for court personnel with this JFF award.

Legal Aid of North Carolina – Central Carolina will serve on the Consulting Committee. Legal Aid attorneys will encourage the Courts to make program referrals when appropriate, provide training and consultation to FVS on applicable legal issues upon request, and educate other family law attorneys and judges regarding FVS services when appropriate. LA will be the lead partner to implement and conduct activity related to civil legal assistance in this project. Referrals for civil legal assistance will be referred by CFVPS and SB to FVS, and FVS will refer and track those cases, providing ongoing support as needed. Those services will be provided for pro se victims of domestic violence and who are nonoffending parents, when the other parent is represented by counsel. A contract for services will be executed between Chatham County and Legal Aid, and LA agrees to complete all OVW reporting requirements. This JFF award will provide services subsequent to the current JFF award and County contract, beginning July 1, 2025.

Child Protective Services of the Department of Social Services will serve on the Consulting Committee, refer child abuse/neglect or domestic violence victims for FVS services, and provide training to FVS staff regarding child abuse and family resources. The Department may provide case history information and guidance when appropriate.

Chatham County Government will be the fiscal agent for this project and ensure compliance with the OVW reporting requirements. FVS staff are and will be county government employees. A County representative will serve on the Consulting Committee, and the County will continue to provide in-kind services and support for the project.

III. Description of Mandatory Partners and Collaboration Activities

Since 2018, support and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault have been coordinated by joint efforts of CFVP (a county government department) and Second Bloom (the state-designated nonprofit dv/sa provider in Chatham in 2022). Advocates from both agencies attend court, to accompany and support clients. Staff from both agencies have organized several 40-hour training modules for volunteers; have implemented a 24/7 crisis line; and have

collaborated to secure community resources. MOU's have been executed, and it is anticipated that Second Bloom will assume all dv/sa services withing Chatham by the year 2025.

The Judicial District 15B Courts include Chatham and Orange Counties. Four courthouse locations and five district court judges oversee proceedings related to domestic violence, family, juvenile delinquency, child support, family drug treatment, criminal, civil, and mental health matters. Each judge has been oriented to FVS services over the years and frequently refers families to the program, maintaining regular communication with the FVS Project Director. Chief District Judge Samantha Cabe will ensure that a judge will attend the quarterly Consulting Committee meetings. Domestic violence cases are calendared every Wednesday in Chatham, and staff members from FVS, CFVPS, SB, and LA regularly attend hearings.

Legal Aid of NC – Central Carolina has been an active partner since FVS inception and LA attorneys make many referrals into the program. FVS will provide meeting space at their center as needed for LA to confer with clients, as well as to provide public or agency trainings regarding domestic violence and/or child custody issues. LA represents most pro-se victims seeking Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, as referred by CFVP and SB. Funding constraints prevent LA to assist clients with further services, such as divorce and child custody. This application seeks continued funds to contract with LA to provide these necessary services for pro se victims.

IV. Description of Other Supporting Partnerships

Over 45% of cases reported to Child Protective Services, Dept of Social Services involve families experiencing domestic violence. DSS staff members are trained to recognize, assess, and assist families in crisis, and social workers have learned that dv victims frequently need extra support in parenting when an offender parent is abusive. Families not in DSS custody, but in case management services, are sometimes referred to FVS for voluntary supervised visitation or exchange services.

V. Development of the Application

The Consulting Committee and MOU partners were involved in completion of this application with review of potential purpose areas. Priorities were developed based upon history and community needs at this time. The application draft was developed by the Project Director in consultation with collaborative partners. A final review of the application with the partners has led to the agreement reflected in the Memorandum and submission of the Grant Application. The agreed upon project goals and objectives are:

Goal 1: Enhance the safety of victims and their children by providing supervised visitation and safe exchanges of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

Objective 1.1: By September 30, 2027, provide supervised visitation for 90 families.

Objective 1.2: By September 30, 2027, provide safe exchange services for 25 families.

Objective 1.3: Engage community partners to further develop and support supervised visitation services through quarterly Consulting Committee meetings.

Goal 2: Enhance the safety of victims by providing civil legal assistance to pro se victims of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

Objective 2.1: By September 30, 2027, provide civil legal advocacy and supportive services for minimally 150 victims of domestic violence/sexual assault through collaboration and agreements with Second Bloom and Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services.

Objective 2.2: By September 30, 2027, provide civil legal representation for 36 pro se domestic violence/sexual assault victims with contract between applicant and Legal Aid of NC.

VI. Development and Implementation Team

The following persons comprise the planning and implementation team:

Kit Stanley, Project Director, Family Visitation & Family Violence Prevention Services

Renita Foxx, Chatham County Court Programs Director, Chatham County Government

Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell, Executive Director, Second Bloom of Chatham

The Hon. Samantha Cabe, Chief District Court Judge, Judicial District 15B

Allison Young, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid of North Carolina – Central Carolina

Jennie Kristiansen, Director, Chatham County Dept of Social Services

Team members recognize the need for safe visitation for families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will work together to assure effective implementation of the project and ensure compliance with OVW guidelines. While FVS is the lead writer of this proposal, partners have reviewed and provided input into the proposal.

VII. Approval of the Budget

Participating partners have reviewed and approved the proposed project budget.

VIII. Committed Resources to the Project

Family Visitation Services will provide staffing, staff supervision, training, facilitation of quarterly Consulting Committee meetings, and be responsible for reporting required by OVW. The agency will provide office space and meeting space. FVS will provide meeting space for LA as requested for LA client meetings and trainings.

Second Bloom of Chatham and Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services will provide staff to serve on the Consulting Committee. They will provide training for FVS staff, and provide resources, client education and services, and outreach activities for improved community access to court based programs, and assist with referrals to the civil legal assistance included in this proposal.

Judicial District 15B Courts will provide staff time to serve on the Consulting Committee and attend trainings as applicable.

Legal Aid of North Carolina – Central Carolina will provide staff time to serve on the Consulting Committee and attend and offer trainings as applicable. LA will ensure attorneys contracted in this project are experienced and skilled at representing victims in civil legal proceedings.


Child Protective Services of Chatham County will provide staff time to serve on the Consulting Committee, and attend and offer trainings as applicable.

Chatham County Government will be the fiscal agent for the project and ensure compliance with OVW reporting requirements. They will provide staff time to serve on the Consulting Committee, and will continue to provide in-kind services including but not limited to technical, information services, facility maintenance, human resources, and accounting support.

IX. Commitment to Partnership

The partners agree to collaborate and provide assistance to victims of domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.

We, the undersigned, have read and agree with this MOU, and have reviewed the proposed budget.

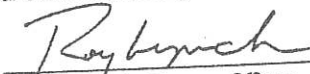


Dan LaMontagne, County Manager, Chatham County Government

1/23/24

Date

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

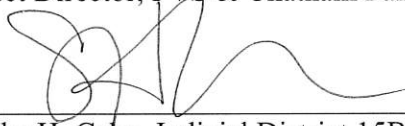


Roy Lynch, Finance Officer

Renita Foxx, Court Programs Director, Chatham County Government

Date

Kit Stanley, Project Director, FVS & Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services



1-24-24

The Hon. Samantha H. Cabe, Judicial District 15B Chief District Judge

Date

Allison Young, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid of NC – Central Carolina

Date

Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell, Executive Director, Second Bloom of Chatham

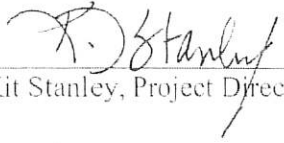
Date

Jennie Kristiansen, Director, Chatham County Dept of Social Services

Date

Renita Foxx, Court Programs Director, Chatham County Government

Date

 1/20/2024

Kit Stanley, Project Director, FVS & Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services

The Hon. Samantha H. Cabe, Judicial District 15B Chief District Judge

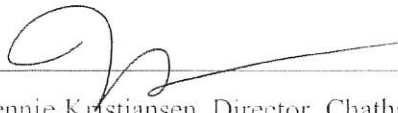
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1/23/24

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