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## Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

**9th National Strengthening Indian Nations  
Justice for Victims of Crime Conference**

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## Video

Overview of the Duluth Family  
Visitation Center

## Why Have Visitation Centers that Address Domestic Violence?

### Research has shown:

- The most dangerous time for women is after they have left the batterer.

### Even with protection orders:

- Visitation presents a risk of serious and even deadly violence because this may be the only time access to the victim is available or known by the batterer.
- Phone contact regarding visitation also provides further opportunities to threaten and harass women under the premise the call was regarding the children.

## Child Safety and Visitation

- Visitation creates the potential for parental child abductions. Children are often used as a means to retaliate against a woman.
- Batterers can also exude other kinds of negative behavior, such as drinking and drug use, insulting the child(ren)'s mother, limited parenting capacity, and it is unknown how safe the children would be if left alone with him.



## Supervised Visitation Services

Provides immediate intervention at the most volatile point of the relationship.

Identified as a way to protect women and children in cases involving domestic violence, stalking, and child abuse when connected to a larger coordinated response



## Supervised Visitation Addressing Domestic Violence Is A Emerging Field

For the Past Two Decades There Has Never Been an Opportunity to Look Comprehensively at the Issues of Domestic Violence and Supervised Visitation.

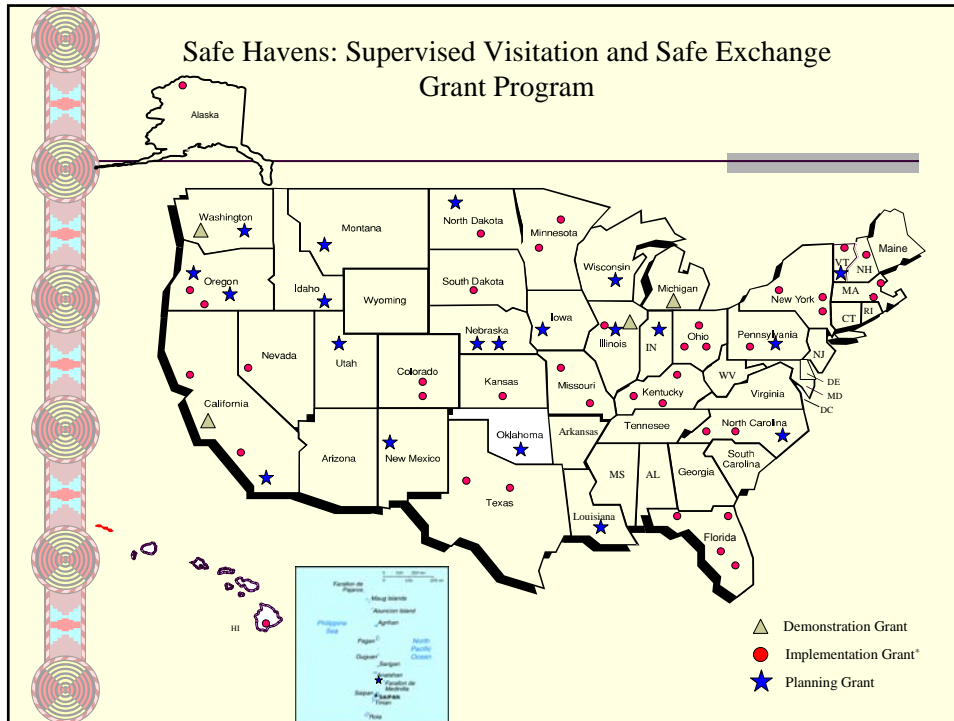
Nationwide Supervised Visitation Centers Have Served a Wide Variety of Populations and Have Operated Under a Wide Variety of Philosophical Backgrounds



## Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

- Authorized under VAWA 2000
- \$15m appropriated in FY 03 and FY 04
- 63 grant awards





- | PLANNING GRANTEES                                | IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEES                  | DEMONSTRATION GRANTEES            |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. ★ Alpine, CA (Southern Indian Health Council) | 21. ● State of Alaska, AK                | 46. ▲ Washoe County, NV           |
| 2. ★ Bannock County, ID                          | 22. ● City & County of San Francisco, CA | 47. ● Borough of Bronx County, NY |
| 3. ★ Steuben County, IN                          | 23. ● Orange County, CA                  | 48. ● Cayuga County, NY           |
| 4. ★ Lasalle County, IL                          | 24. ● El Paso County, CO                 | 49. ● New York City, NY           |
| 5. ★ City of New Orleans, LA                     | 25. ● City of Longmont, CO               | 50. ● Portage County, OH          |
| 6. ★ Missoula County, MT                         | 26. ● State of North Dakota              | 51. ● Seneca County, OH           |
| 7. ★ Chatham County, NC                          | 27. ● City of Jacksonville, FL           | 52. ● Trumbull County, OH         |
| 8. ★ City of Grand Island, NE                    | 28. ● Okaloosa County, FL                | 53. ● Jackson County, OR          |
| 9. ★ Lincoln, NE ( Ponca Tribe)                  | 29. ● Pinellas County, FL                | 54. ● Multnomah County, OR        |
| 10. ★ Fort Totten, ND (Spirit Lake Tribe)        | 30. ● Saint Lucie County, FL             | 55. ● Berks County, PA            |
| 11. ★ Pueblo of Zuni, NM (Zuni Tribe)            | 31. ● State of Hawaii                    | 56. ● Pierre, SD                  |
| 12. ★ Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands           | 32. ● McLean County, IL                  | 57. ● Dallas County, TX           |
| 13. ★ Anadarko, OK (Apache Tribe)                | 33. ● Wyandotte, KS                      | 58. ● Webb County, TX             |
| 14. ★ Deschutes County, OR                       | 34. ● Campbell County, KY                | 59. ● Burlington, VT              |
| 15. ★ Lincoln County, OR                         | 35. ● Lexington-Fayette County, KY       |                                   |
| 16. ★ City of Philadelphia, PA                   | 36. ● Louisville/Jefferson County, KY    |                                   |
| 17. ★ State of Utah                              | 37. ● Town of Easton, MA                 |                                   |
| 18. ★ St. Alban's, VT                            | 38. ● State of Massachusetts             |                                   |
| 19. ★ Suquamish, WA (Suquamish Tribe)            | 39. ● Duluth, MN                         |                                   |
| 20. ★ State of Wisconsin                         | 40. ● Itasca County, MN                  |                                   |
|  | 41. ● City of East Prairie, MO           |                                   |
|  | 42. ● City of Independence, MO           |                                   |
|  | 43. ● Buncombe County, NC                |                                   |
|  | 44. ● Haywood County, NC                 |                                   |
|  | 45. ● State of New Hampshire             |                                   |
|  |  | 60. ▲ Santa Clara County, CA      |
|  |  | 61. ▲ City of Chicago, IL         |
|  |  | 62. ▲ State of Michigan           |
|  |  | 63. ▲ City of Kent, WA            |

## Program Purpose



To increase safety for victims and their children by increasing opportunities for supervised visitation and safe exchange in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking.

## Program Scope

- Defined by the statutory considerations and minimum requirements (VAWA 2000).
- Projects are grounded in the belief that domestic violence is a crime of power and control.
- By statute, visitation and exchanges by and between parents.



## Statutory Considerations

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- Number of families served.
- Services to underserved populations.
- Collaboration with non-profit, non-governmental DV and SA entities.
- Collaboration with state and local courts.



## Minimum Requirements

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By statute, all grantees for the supervised visitation program must:

- Demonstrate expertise in family violence, domestic violence, and/or sexual abuse;
- Implement sliding fee scales;
- Demonstrate adequate security; And,
- Prescribe standards and protocols.



## Activities That May Compromise Victim Safety:

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- Mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or family counseling;
- Pre-trial diversion programs;
- Batterer intervention not linked to the criminal justice system;
- Mandating victims to services; And,
- Discriminatory practices.



## Components of the Grant Program

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- Grantee communities
- Technical assistance
- Advisory council
- Report to congress



## Grantee Communities



- **Planning:** planning and development of a new site
- **Implementation:** Initial implementation of a supervised visitation center or enhancement and improvement of services of an existing center
- **Demonstration:** Three year award to identify, develop and implement promising practices in the areas of standards and protocols, security measures, community partnership, and specialized services

## The Role of the Advisory Board:

**Creating Conditions for  
Successful Visitation Centers**



## **Defining and Shaping Relationships With:**

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- Courts
- Advocacy programs
- Batterer intervention programs
- Mental health programs
- Adult educational programs
- Police/law enforcement



## **Finding Common Philosophical Ground for Intervention in Domestic Assault Cases Post-separation**

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- How to think about interagency coordination in post-separation domestic assault cases
- Who needs to know what, why, and with what implications for victim safety (documentation and exchange of information?)



## **Technical Assistance Can Be Provided in the Form of ...**

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- Specialized conference calls.
- Audio training.
- Problem solving.
- Finding resources.
- Etc.