



Amy's Courage Fund Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Amy's Courage Fund?

A: The Amy's Courage Fund was established to alleviate the financial constraints that often prevent a victim from escaping abuse. Amy's Courage Fund provides emergency financial assistance of up to \$2,000 to victims of domestic violence to meet their immediate needs after escaping an abusive home or attempting to reestablish themselves after leaving such situations.

Q: Who can apply?

A: State domestic violence coalitions, local domestic violence programs, tribal domestic violence programs, and tribal domestic violence coalitions can apply for funds on behalf of an adult survivor. Applying organizations must be non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations or tribal organizations whose core mission is to serve or represent victims of domestic violence.

Eligible organizations that submit applications must provide core services that include 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, system advocacy, residential and/or non-residential support groups, individual and/or group counseling, domestic violence training/technical assistance and/or domestic violence transitional housing.

Eligible organizations include:

- Domestic violence shelters
- Domestic violence transitional housing programs
- Domestic violence coalitions
- Culturally specific domestic violence organizations

If you need additional information on organization eligibility, you can reach NNEDV at (202) 543-5566 or amyscourage@nnedv.org.

Q: How do I apply?

A: The application must be submitted online and can be accessed at <http://www.nnedv.org/projects/amysfund.html>.

Q: What types of expenses are eligible for funding through Amy's Courage Fund?

A: Eligible expenses can include: moving and transportation costs for victims who are fleeing; rent and security deposits for new, safe homes; utilities, utility deposits and phone hook-ups; medical expenses such as doctor appointments, medication and prescription eyeglasses; legal fees and/or expenses for filing for custody agreements and divorce; car repairs and transportation needs; U-haul rentals and storage fees; furniture, appliances, and other household goods; and clothing.

While this list is fairly inclusive, there may be circumstances where a survivor has emergency needs that are not listed. In these instances, agencies are encouraged to apply and clearly articulate how the need is related to a survivor's safety.

Q: Are children of domestic violence survivors eligible to receive a grant from the Amy's Courage Fund?

A: Funding for this grant program is designated for adult domestic violence survivors only. Unfortunately, children of domestic violence survivors are not eligible to receive funding from this grant program.

Q: Are undocumented adult survivors of domestic violence eligible to receive financial assistance through Amy's Courage Fund?

A: Yes. Any adult survivor of domestic violence regardless of gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, race, religion, etc. is eligible to receive funds. Immigration status is not a determining factor in receiving financial assistance.

Q: Can an eligible organization submit more than one application on behalf of survivors throughout the year?

A: Yes, eligible organizations can submit no more than 5 applications from 5 different domestic violence survivors within one calendar year. Please note that if you submit more than one application on behalf of a survivor this will count against your organization's 5 application limitation.

Q: Can eligible organizations submit multiple applications on behalf of one survivor in one year?

A: Eligible organizations can only submit two applications for the same domestic violence survivors within one calendar year.

Q: Does the agency applying need to apply on behalf of a specific person, or can the agency apply for funding and hold on to an award for future use?

A: The financial assistance grant is for immediate needs of individual domestic violence survivors. The applying agency must submit separate application for each survivor.

Q: Are there any deadlines for submission?

A: Applications will only be accepted during specific funding cycles. Applications will be accepted and reviewed by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Inc. (NNEDV) Economic Justice team on a first come first serve basis. Once all available funding is distributed, the fund will be closed until the next cycle. Applications will not be placed on a waiting list between funding cycles.

Q: Whose contact information do we need to include on the application form?

A: The specific contact information of the eligible organization is required to complete the application. Please do not include the domestic violence survivor's contact information.

Q: Does NNEDV want the audited financial statement of the applying organization or the survivor?

A: NNEDV would like the summary of the audited financial statement of the organization who is submitting the application. Please note that your audited financial statement may not be more than two years old.

Q: Is the audited financial statement required with every application?

A: No. An audited financial statement must only be submitted once and will then be kept on file with NNEDV. Audited financial statements can be uploaded with the online application or faxed to NNEDV at (202) 543-5626. The audited financial statement may not be more than two years old.

Q: If my agency does not conduct an annual audit, can I still apply on behalf of my client for the Amy's Courage Fund?

A: If your organization does not conduct an annual audit, please contact NNEDV at (202)543-5566 for further information about possible eligibility.

Q: My agency is a Tribal Organization and not a 501(c)(3) organization. Can I still apply on behalf of my client for Amy's Courage Fund assistance?

A: Yes. The tribal organizations are eligible to apply. When completing the online application, enter your Tribe's Federal Identifying Number where the application asks for the Tax ID number. If for some reason the system does not accept it, please contact NNEDV at (202) 543-5566 for assistance.

Q: Can I have the application mailed/emailed to me for completion before the open application period?

A: No. The application cannot be distributed prior to the opening date.

Q: How can I access the application?

A: The online application can be found at the National Network to End Domestic Violence website, <http://www.nnedv.org/projects/amysfund.html>.

Q: How long does it take to complete the application?

A: Each application will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Q: How long does the review process take?

A: The NNEDV Economic Justice Team will work as quickly as possible to complete this process in a timely manner.

Q: What are the next steps in the application funding process once we have submitted an application?

A: If the application has been granted, an award letter, check, and confirmation form will be mailed out to the applying organization. If the application is not funded, the organization will receive a non-award letter. It is important for applicant organizations to understand that

submitting an application does not guarantee funding. All applications must be reviewed by the NNEDV Economic Justice Team to determine if all eligibility criteria have been met. Please be sure to communicate this to all domestic violence survivor applicants you are working with.

The applying agency must provide a final report on the individual within one month of receiving the funds. The report should indicate how the funds were used, and any known outcomes regarding the individual's situation.

Q: What information will I need to gather in advance to complete the application process?

A: You will need to provide the following information: the name of program; your organization's EIN nonprofit number; name of a contact person and contact information; name of the program's executive director; the survivor's alias; amount requested for the survivor; detailed description of the survivor's situation and needs; detailed description of efforts your agency has made to secure funds from other resources; budget with cost estimates illustrating how this funding will be applied; description of your agency's mission and services you provide to victims of domestic violence; and a summary/copy of the organization's most recent audited financial statement.

Q: What are the review criteria?

A: Applications will be granted or denied based on:

- ✓ Need;
- ✓ Safety concerns; and
- ✓ Lack of resources to fulfill the request elsewhere.

FINDING ELLIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST SURVIVORS

Q: How can I find a domestic violence shelter/program in my community?

A: The National Domestic Violence Hotline can connect you with a domestic violence shelter/program in your community. The hotline is open 24 hours a day seven days a week. You can reach the hotline by calling **1-800-799-7233**. You can also reach a local domestic violence shelter/program in your community by contacting a domestic violence coalition in your state.

Q: How can I reach the domestic violence coalition in my state?

A: The contact information for domestic violence coalitions across the country is available on our website, <http://www.nnedv.org/resources/coalitions.html>.

Q: What is a domestic violence coalition?

A: A domestic violence coalition is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to ending domestic violence by promoting social change through public policy advocacy. The coalition provides domestic violence shelters with training and technical assistance that coordinates community responses to domestic violence and systems-based advocacy within the legal, healthcare, homeless and social services communities. It also provides information and referral services.

Q: How can I find a culturally specific domestic violence organization?

A: Please use the contact information below to identify culturally specific domestic violence organizations in your community. Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (877)-643-8222; Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence (415)954-9988; Alianza: National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (800)342-9908.