

Non-Governmental Organization Application for Public Safety Escrow Funds

Applicant Organization: Violence Intervention Project

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Organization Point of Contact:

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Point of Contact for Financial Remittance:

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Description of services provided by organization: *(Please describe past and current services offered by your organization that illustrate its work in providing assistance to victims and/or survivors of sex trafficking.)* Violence Intervention Project (VIP) is a non-profit located in Thief River Falls, MN. We serve 5 counties in NW MN including Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau, Marshall and Kittson and two Indian Nations of Red Lake and White Earth. We provide advocacy and emergency shelter to victims and survivors of relationship and family violence, sexual violence and sex trafficking. We also operate a parenting time center for safe child exchanges and supervised visitation. And we offer outreach and education to schools, local business and faith based organizations. When our shelter is full we will purchase a "safe" hotel room for victims that need shelter. We also provide them with food and clothing, and personal care items when needed. In addition, we help victims with orders for protection and harassment restraining orders and attend court with them. We also provide safety plans if they make the decision to return to the relationship. Finally, our agency has housing programs to help victims move into permanent housing if they are homeless because of fleeing a violent relationship or sex trafficking.

Proposed services to be provided by organization: *(Please include description of how these services relate to criminal activity with a nexus to the Line 3 Replacement Project.)* We will continue to provide services to victim survivors. Since the Line 3 Replacement project has come to our area, we have experienced an increase in calls and need for services. We have provided services to several victims that have been assaulted by employees working on the Enbridge Line 3 project. Three weeks ago, there was an assault at a hotel and the victim was transported by law enforcement to our shelter. Last week there was an assault at the campground; law enforcement was called and transported the victim to our shelter. We were able to find a hotel room and purchased a bus ticket so the victim could return home. This week there was another assault at one of the hotels, and the victim was transported to our shelter and we found a hotel room for her. She hasn't decided if she wants to return to the relationship or go home. We are having challenges finding safe hotel rooms for clients because almost all of our hotels are filled to capacity with pipeliners. The hotel that is closest to our shelter is regularly full. So we have to search for available space and usually spend twice the rate that we would normally pay for hotel rooms. Finding housing options for clients that are homeless, is also a challenge because many of the independent landlords have rented out to pipeliners at increased rates.

In addition, some of our staff have young daughters that have reported sexual harassment incidents at the local gas station close to Enbridge Campground; sexually explicit drop texts have appeared on their phones when they are in or near the gas station. We also have heard from young women working at one of the restaurant/bar in a hotel in town. The young women have reported "cat calls" and "harassing statements" during their work shift. They have been moved to the kitchen to protect them from these situations. And we have also heard stories of men in the bar, watching and targeting women that are vulnerable.

Itemized description of proposed/anticipated expenses:

Safe hotel for two women that were reportedly assaulted by Pipeline employees. Law Enforcement was called and the victims were transported to our shelter. We are currently full so we are utilizing safe hotel.

\$259.28:

- January 17 - January 18, 2020: \$105.48
- February 10 – February 11,2020: \$153.80

Acknowledgement:

I understand that any funds provided for the purposes indicated above will be provided through the Public Safety Escrow Account created by Enbridge, Inc. Neither the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force ("MNHITF") nor the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Investigation provide funding for this initiative. This application will be reviewed by the MNHITF and submitted to the DPS Public Safety Liaison with any recommendations as to suitability for funding.

Signed: Stacy Reay

Title: CO-Executive Director

Date: 2-16-20