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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County Awarded Two Housing First Grants**

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif., December 6, 2018** – Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS), Santa Barbara County’s only full-service provider of 24-hour emergency shelter and services for domestic violence victims, has been awarded state and federal contracts in excess of \$625,000 to support the housing needs of survivors of domestic violence throughout Santa Barbara County beginning in January 2019.

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services granted the agency \$240,000 as part of the Domestic Violence Housing First project, which is based on a successful model adopted in Washington State. DVS is one of 65 agencies throughout the State that were selected to receive these grants. The funds will be used to support field-deployed mobile housing advocates who connect clients (current shelter residents and nonresident survivors) with housing opportunities and provide access to flexible funding to support rental assistance, move-in costs and deposits, and children’s needs. The initial funding is for 12 months with an opportunity to reapply for three additional years.

Further, DVS was selected to receive \$385,000 from a pool of \$9,600,000 Homeless Emergency Assistance Program funding that was available to the County of Santa Barbara through Housing and Urban Development’s Continuum of Care Program. These funds are administered through the County Human Services Department – Housing and Community Development and are to be implemented over a 2.5-year period. DVS plans to deploy funding to address two major challenges faced by domestic violence survivors: affordable child care and job and life skills development.

Together the two contracts could provide over \$1,500,000 of financial and case management support for domestic violence survivors across the county over the course of the next four years.

“These awards represent an incredible opportunity to support our clients in the areas they most need it – housing acquisition and rental assistance, employment support and training, and quality child care,” stated Jan Campbell, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County. “We are grateful for the support of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, with whom we will be working to develop programs and best practices.”

*Domestic Violence Solutions is dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic violence by providing prevention and intervention services, emotional support and advocacy to those in crisis, and playing a leadership role in effecting social change. For more information, to make a donation or to learn about upcoming events, please contact Julia Black at [juliab@dvsolutions.org](mailto:juliab@dvsolutions.org) or visit [www.dvsolutions.org](http://www.dvsolutions.org).*

**DVS 24-Hour Crisis and Information Lines:**

Santa Barbara: 805.964.5245, Santa Maria: 805.925.2160, Lompoc: 805.736.0965, Santa Ynez: 805.686.4390