



Safe at Home

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Steve Simon

Safe at Home Program Participation Annual Report January 2016

(Reporting Period: January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$1,021. Most of these costs involved staff time in analyzing data and preparing the written report. Incidental costs include paper, copying, and other office supplies.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with *Minnesota Statutes 2012*, Section 3.197, requiring the cost for preparing a report to be provided at the beginning of a report to the legislature.

Safe at Home Program Overview

The Safe at Home address confidentiality program is managed by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. The program, which began September 1, 2007, is open to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and those who otherwise fear for their safety, including law enforcement and judicial personnel.

Participants in Safe at Home are assigned a designated address (a P.O. Box in St. Paul) that can be used for all of their interactions with others. The designated address allows the participant to go about their daily life without disclosing their actual home, employment, or school address. All private and public entities in the state of Minnesota must accept the Safe at Home address as a participant's actual address per Minn. Stat. § 5B.05(a).

Safe at Home receives participants' mail, forwards their First Class Mail to them, and assists them with their interactions with third parties should problems arise when giving the Safe at Home address to others. Staff also works with third party stakeholders, such as county offices, utility companies, banks, and schools, to ensure legal compliance and to make sure their business practices accommodate the safety needs of Safe at Home participants. Since the program's inception, more than 5,000 participants and applicants have been served.

Total Number of Participants or Applicants Served Per Calendar Year

2009	513
2010	799
2011	1,198
2012	1,681
2013	2,169
2014	2,436
2015	2,777

Current Program Participation

Number of Program Participants as of December 31, 2015	2,052
Number of Participant Households as of December 31, 2015	890

Safe at Home Application Assistants

Safe at Home is a successful private sector–government partnership that utilizes limited state resources to recruit, train, and monitor application assistants—victim advocates who are employed by community-based organizations throughout Minnesota. As of December 31, 2015, Safe at Home had partnerships with 71 different community-based organizations and 183 application assistants.

Application assistants meet one-on-one with potential applicants to discuss their situation and help them determine whether applying to Safe at Home is an appropriate safety step for them to take. During this process, the application assistant helps them understand the program and guides the application process.

In order to ensure enough application assistants are available throughout the state at all times, Safe at Home provides initial trainings to advocates several times a year. Continuing education is provided on an as-needed basis to teach application assistants about legislative changes to the program and to keep application skills fresh. Beyond this training and ongoing support, the community-based organizations and individual staff are not compensated by Safe at Home.

The chart below shows the number of application assistants accredited to assist with the Safe at Home application process as of December 31, 2015 and the number of application assistants who were trained or provided with continuing education during the 2015 calendar year.

The map on page four of this report shows a 2015 geographical breakdown of the 86 counties (all counties except Cook are currently served) and one tribal government served by the community-based organizations where the application assistants were employed.

Safe at Home Application Assistant Activity

Number of Application Assistants as of December 31, 2015 <i>Note: Application assistants are employees of community-based organizations.</i>	183
Number of Application Assistants Provided with Initial Training or Continued Education January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015	167

**87 Geographical Areas Served by Minnesota Safe at Home Application Assistants
(as of December 31, 2015)**

