



Women's Center Update: City receives federal Safe Havens grant

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The city of South Lake Tahoe was selected as one of 12 entities nationwide to receive a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Safe Havens program to establish the community's first-ever supervised visitation and safe exchange center.

The center will be tailored to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault or stalking who are court-ordered to have supervised child visitations or exchanges. The city will collaborate with the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center and El Dorado County Superior Court to implement the program. The women's center will provide the facility and staff to conduct the supervised visitations and exchanges.

In order to prevent abuse victims from being revictimized, survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and stalking, along with their children, need a safe place to carry out court-ordered, supervised visitations and exchanges.

The city, the Women's Center and El Dorado County Superior Court recognized the seriousness of this program and the absence of these services in eastern El Dorado County and applied for the funding in early 2007.

The center will open in July 2008 following implementation of new security measures at the women's center, hiring and training program staff and establishment of referral and reporting protocols among the court, the women's center and the city.

-- Leanne Wagoner is executive director at the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center.

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