



Safe at Home

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Steve Simon

Safe at Home Program Participation Annual Report January 2017

(Reporting Period: January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$2,012. 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 6,000 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
2016	3,134

Current Program Participation

Number of Program Participants as of December 31, 2016	2311
Number of Participant Households as of December 31, 2016	999

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, 2016, Safe at Home had partnerships with 80 different community-based organizations and 262 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.

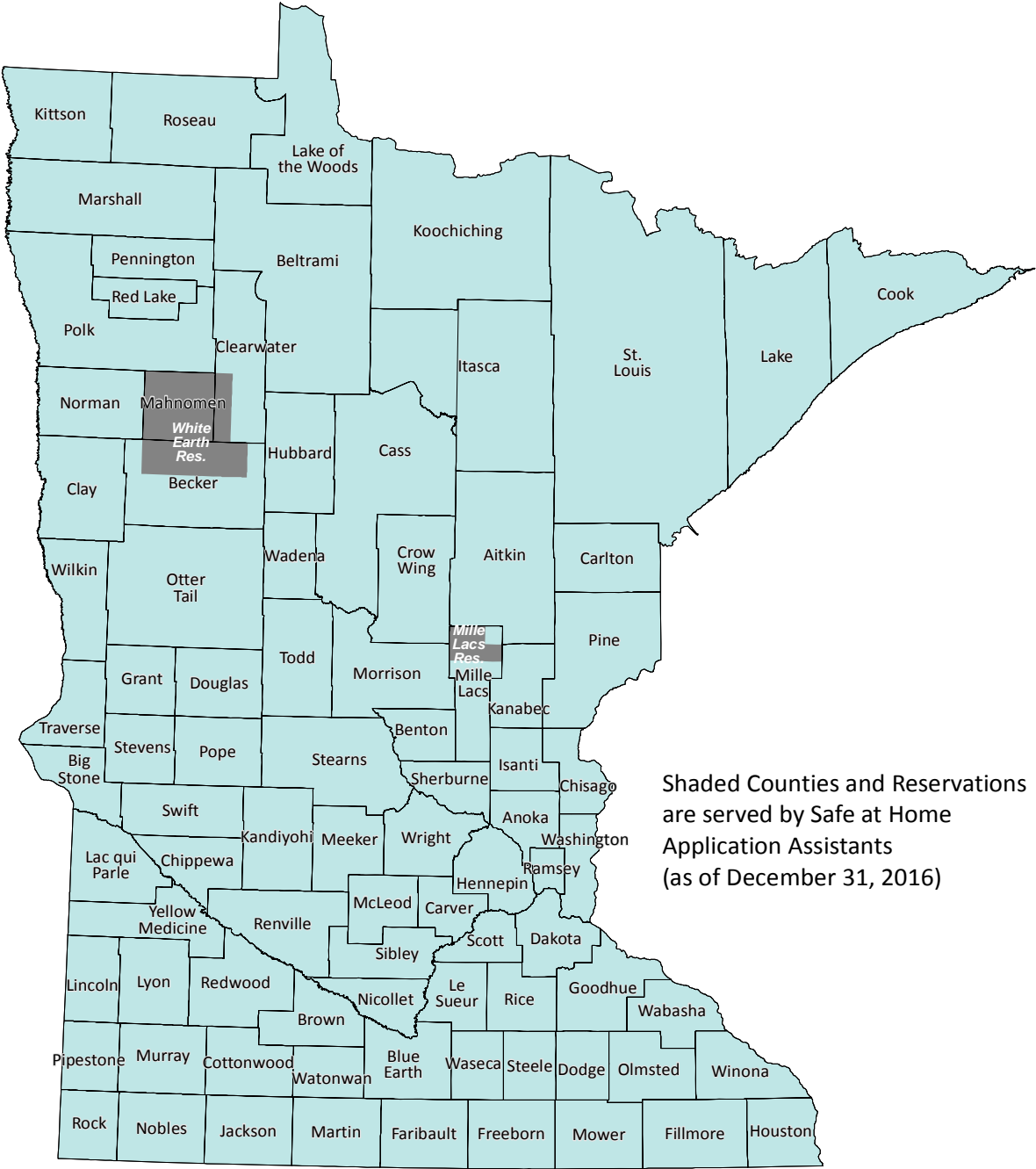
The chart below shows the number of application assistants accredited to assist with the Safe at Home application process as of December 31, 2016 and the number of application assistants who were trained or provided with continuing education during the 2016 calendar year.

The map on page four of this report shows the geographical coverage of counties and tribal governments served by community-based organizations where application assistants were able to assist victims with the application process as of December 31, 2016. Calendar year 2017 begins with an unprecedented situation. As the map indicates, there is at least one location in every Minnesota county where an eligible victim can go to complete a Safe at Home application. This is the most comprehensive coverage in the history of the program.

Safe at Home Application Assistant Activity

<p style="text-align: center;">Number of Application Assistants as of December 31, 2016</p> <p><i>Note: Application assistants are employees of community-based organizations.</i></p>	262
<p style="text-align: center;">Number of Application Assistants Provided with Initial Training or Continued Education January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016</p>	128

89 Geographical Areas Served by Minnesota Safe at Home Application Assistants
 (as of December 31, 2016)



Shaded Counties and Reservations
 are served by Safe at Home
 Application Assistants
 (as of December 31, 2016)