

Contact: Amy Woeller
Tel: (315) 576-5725
Email: awoeller@thesamaritanwomen.org
Website: <https://instituteforsheltercare.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSTITUTE FOR SHELTER CARE ADDRESSES GAP IN SHELTER CARE

BALTIMORE, MD, May 17, 2021

It is well established: there is a national deficit in housing and restorative care options for victims of sexual exploitation. The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care is leading a national initiative to close that gap in services. As of April 2021, Institute research has identified 9 states that have no shelter program dedicated to victims of exploitation, and 8 states have only one (<https://thesamaritanwomen.org/shelter-map/>). Lack of housing remains the #1 need reported by law enforcement and frontline victim service agencies. Private funding remains the primary source of support for shelter agencies. Watch this video to learn more about the national deficit of care: <https://vimeo.com/463144992/6102bb0f4f>

The faith community has stepped up to address the need for shelters with 61% of existing shelters being faith-based organizations according to Institute research. This speaks to the importance of reaching out to the faith-based community about the deficit of shelter care in the hopes that more Christian leaders will rise up and meet the needs of victims of sexual exploitation.

To address this gap the Institute for Shelter Care created a shelter-planting and mentoring program. Based on our research and anecdotal evidence, the most common areas of shelter closure include: (1) staffing, (2) financial stability, (3) lack of program, and (4) leadership. We can do something about these challenges. This program includes one full-year of on-site and online training in nonprofit management, leadership, fundraising, legal and HR, as well as service-specific training on victimology, trauma-informed care, addiction support, crisis and therapeutic interventions, and our proprietary Care Model. The training year is followed by a 2-year mentorship designed to increase stability and effectiveness.

The 2021 cohort of start-up agencies includes start-up shelters in MD, TX, IN, MS, VA, KS, DE and KY. "Being a part of the mentorship program with the Institute has been a pure honor, as we have learned from the best in the field," notes Kay Duffield, Executive Director of Reset 180, a member of the 2019 cohort who currently operates a drop-in center and is opening a shelter. "We have been given the tools we need to work toward opening a residential program," comments Duffield.

The application process is now open for the 2022 cohort. Up to 8 start-up agencies will be selected from across the nation. "Training and mentoring these agencies to do this very difficult work requires a significant investment of time and resources, but the social cost of doing nothing is far greater," comments Jeanne L. Allert, Executive Director of The Samaritan Women. The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care is dedicated to building the national landscape of victim services so that **any survivor, anywhere in the nation, would have access to compassionate, qualified care.**

Informational webinar: June 22 @ 10:00 am or 1:00 pm. For more information and to register: <https://thesamaritanwomen.org/event/webinar-series/>
Application information can be found at: <https://instituteforsheltercare.org/admissions/>

About The Samaritan Women:



The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care trains and equips shelter programs serving victims of sexual exploitation and conducts national research to improve our nation's response to victim care. For more information about The Samaritan Women, contact Linda Thomas at lthomas@thesamaritanwomen.org.