

COVID-19 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMERGENCY SHELTER RESPONSE

Domestic violence survivors will have an increased need for emergency shelter in the coming weeks. This document provides helpful tools and reminders in addressing requests for emergency shelter.

“Organizations that serve domestic violence survivors say they have seen a spike in calls to crisis hotlines and an increased demand for emergency shelter in the past week as the new coronavirus has spread in Oregon.” – Oregon Live

Emergency Shelter Payments for TA-DVS:

Emergency shelter payments, such as hotel stays, are for **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) safety concerns**, not for health concerns. For more guidance, refer to FSM: *Chapter 5: TA-DVS, Section 8: Payments, Payment Limit* on [Shelter and relocation needs](#) and [motels/hotels](#).



For individuals seeking emergency shelter, always discuss the safest options, both for their DV situation and potential health impacts. Consider:

- What is the safety plan?
 - Can we move the family to friends or family? What is the reason they need the shelter? What community options are available?
 - Does it make sense for someone to stay temporarily with family or friends in another area of the state or out of state?
- Use of motels
 - Nationwide, some hotels are limited or have closed.
 - Reach out to local partners to determine changes in hoteling.
- Temporary Housing
 - Remember, this may be an option for safety and might be coming up more often now because of housing concerns. TA-DVS funds can pay for the first month and deposit but cannot pay ongoing costs.
- Public Transportation
 - If families would like to stay with others, find the cheapest and safest option for travel. Train and plane travel may be significantly less expensive. Is this still a safe option for fleeing families?

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- Authorizing car rentals
 - Renting a car may be a viable option for families to travel to shelter locations or to stay with friends/family.
 - Remember, ensure the survivor has car insurance and the driver has a driver's license.
- Advocates response to emergency shelter
 - We are not alone. Talk with your [local domestic violence advocate](#). Advocacy agencies have also had to significantly change their advocacy services and emergency shelter processes. Ask them about what they are doing, so you know your community resources, and for best practices and resources.

Across the state, domestic violence shelters have varying responses on how to best access emergency shelter in your community. While some domestic violence shelters are unable to accept any new shelter residents at this time, other have closed and moved families to hotels; and, of those remaining open, some have added restrictions to leaving the shelter. Advocacy agencies are taking additional cleaning measures in their shelters and offering mobile advocacy as much as possible.

Search for domestic violence shelters:

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) has an [interactive map](#) that shows services by location, service type, or language needed.

COVID-19 Service Delivery Updates

[Get a snapshot](#) of what domestic violence agencies are doing across the state.

Contact Policy!

We are here to help brainstorm, offer resources, and just be a support. [Contact us](#).