



# Safe at Home

## MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Ritchie

### Safe at Home Program Participation Annual Report January 2014

(January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013)

#### Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$775.00. 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.

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 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.

### **Safe at Home Program Participation**

	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	12/31/2013
Number of Program Participants	111	396	634	958	1,215	1,622
Number of Minnesota Households	74	165	274	398	518	710

### **Total People Served**

Total People Served January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013	2,169
Total People Served Since Program Inception (as of December 31, 2013)	3,171

### **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 and volunteer through the Safe at Home program.

Application assistants meet one-on-one with potential applicants to discuss the victim’s situation and reach a consensus that applying to Safe at Home is an appropriate safety step for the person to take. During this process, the application assistant helps the victim understand the program and guide the application process.

Due to turnover at community-based organizations and Safe at Home’s program growth, trainings for application assistants are ongoing. Continued education is also provided to teach application assistants about legislative changes to the program and to keep application skills fresh. The chart on page three shows the number of application assistants accredited to assist with Safe at Home application as of December 31, 2013 and the number of application assistants that were trained or provided with continued education during the 2013 calendar year.

The map on page four of this report shows a geographical breakdown of the 83 counties and two tribal governments served by the community-based organizations where the application assistants are employed.

**Safe at Home Application Assistant Activity**

<p style="text-align: center;">Number of Application Assistants as of December 31, 2013</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Application Assistants are employees of community-based organizations.</i></p>	<p>218</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Number of Application Assistants Provided with Initial Training or Continued Education January 1, to December 31, 2013</p>	<p>62</p>

**85 Geographical Areas Served by Minnesota Safe at Home Application Assistants**  
(as of December 31, 2013)

