

SHERIDAN COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Advocacy & Resource Center **PHONE:** 672-7471

CONTACT PERSON: Bonnie Young **ADDRESS:** 136 Coffeen Ave, Sheridan, WY 82801

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$20,000 **AMOUNT APPROVED:** _____

TAX STATUS: 501(c)3 **FEDERAL ID NO:** 83-0255952 **EMAIL:** bonnie@arcsheridan.org

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: The A & R Center exists to empower people affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of violence to realize lives of choice, safety and freedom.

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS: New members are nominated and voted upon by the current board of directors.

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: 6 **TERM:** 3 years

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS: Chris Jones, Jeannie Peterson-Hall, Julie Heil, Melissa Rogers, Jennifer Richards, and Scott Brastrup

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

The Advocacy & Resource Center exists to empower people affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and violent crimes to realize lives of choice, safety, and freedom. The degree to which the Center is able to fulfill that mission is, largely, a result of the competency level of staff, especially victim advocates. Each advocate must complete a minimum of 40 hours of training to qualify for an advocate position. Optimal competency, with respect to client outcomes and efficient use of resources, is not achieved without months of work experience. Competent staff offer vital information and support to victims of violent crimes, such as a victim of domestic violence, who desperately needs to leave the abuser but has no job or income. A staff advocate can help identify realistic, cost-effective options for income, shelter, and food, providing financial and physical security and emotional comfort during the initial crisis period as well as helping the victim plan for long-term safety during the longer period of emotional healing. The advocate also may help the victim complete and file a Family Violence Protection or Stalking Order, provide emotional support during court hearings, and advocate for the victim with prosecutors as needed. Therefore, the Center takes great care in employee selection and training to reduce employee turnover. Once advocates are fully competent, they still require continuing education to keep abreast of current trends in the field. Adequate and competitive salaries are crucial to attracting, training, and keeping competent staff, and that means administrators cannot fail to

adequately fund the salaries and benefits portion of the Center budget. County funds can help greatly with these expenses.

Funds are used for general operating expenses associated with operating a 24-hour crisis intervention and referral program. In the coming fiscal year we expect to see a continuing increase in requests for emergency aid, such as shelter, transitional housing, gas and transportation costs, and expenses involving establishing a home. These services decrease the risk of violence for Sheridan County residents and improve the overall quality of life in Sheridan County by allowing a victim to live in safety. Networking allows already overburdened law enforcement officers and prosecutors to make referrals to the Center for appropriate solutions to victims' problems. Funds from the County also help the Center leverage other funds. Without local support, some funds would be unavailable to the Center. The Center applies for federal and state funds managed through the Division of Victim Services; CSBG funds through the Tripartite Board in Sheridan; funds from Dayton and Rancheater; Optional One Cent Tax funds from the City of Sheridan; and grants available from private donors and foundations.

The Advocacy & Resource Center is requesting a \$5,000.00 increase this year because of the already increasing requests for assistance.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested):

	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1.	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>staff salaries</u>
2.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>service recipients' requests for utilities, fuel, food and housing</u>

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

1. 24-hour crisis intervention, referral, and shelter services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and, other violent crimes
2. Walk-in services for victims from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 136 Coffeen Avenue
3. Criminal justice advocacy services including court escort and support, case status information, jail release notification, restitution and compensation assistance, and assistance with protection orders
4. Public education—lectures, seminars, and presentations as requested by community groups and schools
5. Participation on the Sheridan Child Protection Team, Sheridan Adult Protection Team, Sheridan Memorial Hospital Rape Task Force, Sheridan County Coalition Against Violence, Sex Offender Management Team, Suicide Prevention Coalition, and Council of Social Agencies

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

Last year, the Center served 442 individuals. Each individual made contact with an advocate an average of 3 times during which they may have been provided with emotional support, assistance filing a protection order, received financial assistance for food or housing, or a myriad of other services.

County One Cent Optional Funds accounted for 3.3% of the budget the Center used to accomplish those services.

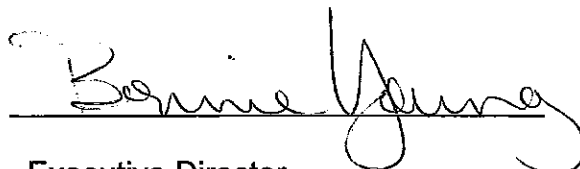
PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

The Center applies for Optional One Cent Tax funds from the City of Sheridan. That request is also for \$20,000 and will be used for the same purpose as the County request.

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable).**

SIGNED: 
Title: Executive Director
Date: March 30, 2010

Please complete this application. You may provide additional information if you wish.