

Northern Transportation and Support Initiative (NTSI)

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Intent

The Northern Transportation and Support Initiative (NTSI) is intended to increase access to places of safety and provide transitional support for residents of the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District who are fleeing circumstances of interpersonal violence and abuse.

When other options are not available or not feasible, this initiative will provide information, referral, and resources to individuals and families when it is necessary to leave unsafe circumstances in a hurry. Resources include support for emergency transportation, emergency supplies related to basic needs, and expenses related to the place of safety. In certain cases, resources will also be made available to return to the community when the risk to the individual or family is reduced.

1.2 NTSI in a nutshell:

- Support to make a **SAFETY PLAN** when leaving an unsafe situation of interpersonal violence and abuse
- **RESOURCES** to help leave in a hurry
- Support and information to make a **PLAN OF HOW TO GET SUPPORT** when arriving at a place of safety

Transitional support includes information, referral, and financial resources when someone is in a situation where he or she must leave in a hurry for safety reasons related to interpersonal violence and abuse. Short term financial resources based on basic needs can be provided through requisitions for good and services.

If transitional support is required, individuals can contact North Sask Victim Services Inc. by telephone, email, or in person.

1.3 Background

The need to provide funding for transportation and a place of safety (safe, short-term emergency accommodation) for individuals and families fleeing circumstances of violence and abuse in northern and isolated communities has been identified by victims, service providers, and northern groups including the North of 54 Promoting Violence Free Communities Inc.

The need has occurred for the following reasons:

- no Transition Houses for women are located north of La Ronge or Meadow Lake to provide a safe refuge for victims of interpersonal violence and abuse.
- most people rely on family, friends, and neighbors when fleeing circumstances of interpersonal violence and abuse.
- access to financial resources is often a barrier to leaving abusive situations in the north and a factor in remaining in an abusive situation. With the heightened risk of abuse and homicide when abused persons separate from the abuser, immediate access to transportation and places of safety becomes paramount to ensure the safety of individuals and families.
- crisis situations often occur at night and on weekends when regular services are unavailable or in communities with no services.
- a gap exists for those individuals and families that find themselves unable to access government services during an emergency. It also occurs when individuals and families become caught between federal and provincial jurisdictions and are unable to access support from either system.

Transitional support is only one part of the issue for individuals and families fleeing circumstances of violence and abuse. Ideally, a community plan outlining procedure for action and available resources would be developed at a future time in each community to ensure the safety of individuals and families.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1 Guiding Principles

NTSI is implemented on the basis of assessed need related to interpersonal violence and abuse and through the principles of:

- a. A focus on safety for the individual(s) and those supporting the individual(s):** the safety and well-being of individuals and families affected by violence and abuse takes priority over questions of jurisdiction and responsibility of payment of services;
- b. Timely action on the basis of a self-perception of fear and the identified needs of the individual;**
- c. A coordinated response that includes a plan for the transition to the place of safety and a plan for connection to services upon arrival at the place of safety; and**
- d. As one of the resources available, NTSI financial support will be provided when it is not available or not feasible to access resources.**

The program is being delivered by a non-profit organization, North Sask Victim Services Inc., through a service agreement with the Ministry of Justice. NTSI provides another tool for the Police-based Victim Services program to support victims of interpersonal violence and abuse.

North Sask Vicim Services Inc. is responsible for the administration and accountability, as well as direct service delivery to individuals and families including:

- assessing circumstances and providing information about safety planning at a time of crisis;
- making decisions about individual eligibility and amount of support required;
- completing required documentation and issuing of a Requisition/Invoice for Goods and Services for use at vendors; and
- providing information about accessing support when arriving at a place of safety.

2.2 Who can get help:

Persons who are eligible for transitional support include vulnerable youth (16-17 year olds), vulnerable adults of any age or gender, as well as vulnerable adults and their children who are permanent or temporary residents in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District (NSAD) who need to leave their homes for safety reasons related to interpersonal violence and abuse. On many occasions, individuals may have a pet that will need to be cared for while they are away from their homes. NTSI will help transport and cover the costs that an individual may incur from having to board/find care for their pets.

2.3 How to get help:

If transitional support is required, individuals can contact the North Sask Victim Services Inc. (NSVS) by telephone, email, or in person at any RCMP detachment in the NSAD.

North Sask Victim Services Inc. Administrative Office:

Box 1409 La Ronge SK S0J 1L0

Telephone: 306-425-3235

Fax: 306-425-3563

Email: northsask2@sasktel.net

2.4 What help is available?

Staff of North Sask Victim Services Inc. can provide transitional support for individuals and families who are fleeing circumstances of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Transitional support includes information, referral, and short-term financial resources for someone in a situation where he or she must leave in a hurry for safety reasons related to interpersonal violence and abuse. Short term financial resources based on basic needs can be provided through a Requisition/Invoice for Good and Services.

More specifically this may include:

2.4.1 Safety planning based on risk:

Safety planning involves providing information, access to resources and supportive assistance to an individual in developing a plan of action when preparing to leave or when leaving potentially dangerous situations.

If the threat of danger is immediate, the individual will be advised to get out of the situation as soon as possible and call the RCMP.

2.4.2 Resources to leave in a hurry, based on needs:

What can be provided?

Short term support can be provided for: emergency transportation for getting to a place of safety

a. emergency supplies such as clothing, personal items, medication, etc.

b. a place of safety: emergency accommodation while making future plans:

c. transportation and travel costs for returning to the home community.

In certain situations, consideration will be given to covering the travel expenses of a person transporting the victim to a place of safety and to return to the home community.

2.4.3 Plan of how to get support when they arrive at a place of safety

Basic information will be provided to assist individuals in how to find support when arriving at a place of safety. At a minimum, a list of human services contacts in communities when arriving at a place of safety will be provided. This may include the Ministry of Social Services, Transition Houses, Victim Service, etc.

3. SERVICE DELIVERY COMPONENTS

3.1 Safety Planning

3.1.1 Safety planning based on risk

SAFETY means getting the victim to a safe place, away from the abuser. If the threat of danger is immediate, the individual will be advised to get out of the situation as soon as possible and call the RCMP. Individuals are asked a series of questions to assess risk and ascertain what is needed to provide appropriate support.

3.1.2 Risk Assessment: What do you need to be safe?

A flowchart which relates to interpersonal violence and abuse will be used to do a risk assessment.

This is based on the flowchart from Community Connections Plan, 2009 STOPS to Violence Inc.