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DCF Supports Efforts to End Domestic Violence in Wisconsin

(MADISON) – Governor Walker has declared the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Wisconsin to raise awareness about the effects of domestic abuse and show support for victims and their families. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) stands united with the Governor in this effort and is doing its part to stem the tide of violence destroying families and communities.

In 2014, Wisconsin lost 43 people to domestic violence, with 36 of them as victims of homicide. Domestic violence affects tens of thousands of women, children and men in Wisconsin every year, with about 2,500 victims needing to seek lifesaving assistance and shelters.

The Department is committed to stopping domestic violence and is leading efforts to improve the way the state's child welfare agencies respond to domestic violence. DCF focuses on victims of violence in the home and their children, who have suffered emotional and physical abuse and may experience related trauma.

“Children who witness abuse often become adults who commit acts of violence, or become victims themselves,” said DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. “By providing guidance, training and assistance to child welfare agencies, DCF is working to end the tragic generational cycle of domestic violence.”

During the 2015-17 biennial budget, Gov. Walker increased domestic abuse grants to be administered by DCF by an additional \$5 million, which represents a 50% increase in state

funding. In the coming year, the Department will be issuing Requests for Proposals (RFP) to distribute the additional funds received in the Governor's budget:

- In October 2015, DCF will issue an RFP for Children's Programming Grants, to provide trauma-informed, family-centered services to children and youth who have been exposed to domestic violence.
- In January 2016, DCF will issue an RFP for Domestic Abuse Services to Underrepresented Populations.
- In March 2016, DCF will issue an RFP for Enhancement of Domestic Abuse Services in Tribal Communities.

In addition, for the first time there will be a dedicated funding stream for initiatives focused on the prevention of domestic abuse. DCF currently partners with many organizations and individuals across the state committed to ending domestic violence, and will convene a planning group with stakeholders to guide the prevention efforts.

For more information, visit www.dcf.wisconsin.gov.