

Request for Proposals

Promising Practices Overall Project Evaluator

Deadline for Applications: 4:00 p.m. (PST) on Thursday, April 17th, 2014

Background and Purpose:

Atira seeks written proposals from evaluators interested in designing and conducting an in-depth, creative overall evaluation of a participatory project resulting in a pan-Canadian promising practices document for housing older women affected by violence/abuse.

Atira Women's Resource Society has been providing housing, advocacy and support to women fleeing violence for more than 25 years. We operate 18 residential programs across Metro Vancouver based on identifying and responding to the varied and specific needs of women. Atira is a leader in developing innovative services and programs for self-identified women who have experienced violence against them or their children. In 2004 Atira opened Ama House, the first transition house in Canada designed specifically for women aged 55+. In the years since it opened, Atira has learned a great deal from Ama House and its more than 250 residents to date about promising practices to support older women experiencing the impacts of abuse/violence.

Research suggests that gender-neutral elder abuse programs and women's transition houses are often not adequately equipped to address older women's experiences and needs. Studies show that shelters can be too noisy, have no quiet spaces free from children, too stressful and be inaccessible for older women with mobility issues. The younger women in the houses are also more likely to be assertive, sometimes making it difficult for the older women to get the support they need.

While currently there is no inventory of elder-specific shelters for women fleeing violence, we do know that there have been various models developed across Canada through different programs and transition houses. It is important that all of these programs have the opportunity to connect and learn from each other in order to best determine what works, what doesn't and what could be improved upon. It is crucial that the experiences of the women at the transition/safe houses are documented and shared to determine the best possible practices for housing older women experiencing abuse.

Our objective is to create a collaboratively developed, pan-Canadian promising practices' document, as well as a network of existing housing programs for older women fleeing abuse. This project will benefit communities and organizations which have developed, or intend to develop much needed safe housing for older women experiencing abuse or violence. It will also greatly benefit older women who so crucially need that housing by giving voice in determining their own successes, as well as communicating what is or isn't working and how we can

improve practices to better meet their needs; it is crucial to actively and respectfully involve older women in the process. This is why we began the project with a creative, participatory evaluation with two Canadian housing programs dedicated to older women fleeing violence: an in-depth evaluation was completed involving older women at Ama House in South Surrey, British Columbia and SAVA Centre-Ouest in Montreal, Quebec, resulting in a preliminary promising practices document. We are now in the second part of the project: we have identified organizations/programs across Canada that house older women and with this network we are building upon the preliminary document to create a pan-Canadian promising practices document. The overall project evaluator will work to identify the success of the project in meeting its stated objectives.

Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Create an in-depth evaluation measurement to assess the activities and results of the project, including:
 - Surveying network members
 - Surveying staff members
 - Evaluating documentation produced
- Explore both the project's process and impacts
- Take direction from and work with staff and partners to develop appropriate tools and methods.
- Actively involve all organizations in the network.
- Attend advisory committee in-person meeting in Vancouver, BC.

Deliverables required at project completion:

- The identification of project impacts
- A document containing results of the evaluation

Submission Requirements:

- Indicate your understanding of the project requirements.
- Outline key success factors and challenges.
- Provide information to illustrate experience including:
 - ✓ Statement of qualifications
 - ✓ Experience working with older women and with the issue of violence against women
 - ✓ Resumes of all principals to be involved and their roles and responsibilities for this project
- Describe methodology recommendation and how it will address our objectives.
- Provide details of your quality assurance (QA) practices.
- Describe any experience collecting data in Canada and project evaluations.
- Please describe expected timeline for this project, including key milestones.
- A fee proposal.

Must be Bilingual (French and English) or have a Bilingual team member.

Timeline:

Evaluator(s) must be available May 5th and 6th. Evaluation must be completed by February, 28th 2015.

Please send proposal to the attention of:

Tamar Cherniawsky

Executive Writer and Project Coordinator
Atira Women's Resource Society

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E: tamar_cherniawsky@atira.bc.ca

We will confirm receipt of proposal by 4:30PM (PST) Thursday, April 17th. If you do not receive such confirmation, please contact Tamar

[help end violence against women and children](http://helpendviolence.ca)

The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag to the right of the letter "a". The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.