

## Working Woman's Home Association      2023 Grant Application

Within the City of Montgomery and its environs, the intent and purpose of the Working Woman's Home Association is:

1. To aid and assist distressed and abused women and children
2. To aid in the education of women to the end that they may become self-sufficient
3. To aid and assist women in providing emergency housing
4. To aid and assist elderly persons, particularly women, in meeting their basic needs

Instructions: Please complete the following questions and submit form at the end. This form allows information from another document to be inserted or pasted in the question response space. It is also possible to edit information on the form after submission.

Email attachments to [secretary@wwhassn.org](mailto:secretary@wwhassn.org).

\*\* This grant application is requesting funds to be awarded in January 2023. NO grant applications will be able to be submitted after the deadline - 5:00 pm on Monday, June 13, 2022.

Name of Organization/Agency \*

Aid to Inmate Mothers Inc

Address \*

660 Morgan Avenue

City, State, and Zip \*

Montgomery, AL 36104

Website Address \*

[www.inmatemoms.org](http://www.inmatemoms.org)

Executive Director Name \*

Carol Potok

Telephone \*

334-262-2245

Email address \*

[carol@inmatemoms.org](mailto:carol@inmatemoms.org)

Project or Program Proposal Contact Person (if different from above)

GENESIS Program

Telephone

3342622245

Email Address

[carol@inmatemoms.org](mailto:carol@inmatemoms.org)

Funding Requested \*

\$15,000

Briefly state the purpose and goals of this project or program. \*

The purpose of the GENESIS program is to provide meaningful assistance to women leaving prison, enabling them to make a smooth transition and increasing their chances of success.

Goals:

- Help ease the transition of recently released women from institutional to community life.
- Empower released women by providing them with Job Readiness training.
- Increase confidence of recently released women by providing them with safe, affordable housing.
- Encourage family reunification.
- Place formerly incarcerated women in jobs that pay a living wage.
- Women will save sufficient money to purchase a car and save for deposits.
- Women completing program will find permanent housing.
- Formerly incarcerated women will retain sobriety, employment.
- Formerly incarcerated women will not reoffend/return to prison.

Briefly describe your plans for administration of this project or program request? \*

Our unique access to the prison has allowed us to successfully address many underlying issues for incarcerated women that are not met by other programs. Access to the women before they leave prison has allowed us to expand and enhance our services to women recently released from prison.

Women interested in paroling out to the GENESIS transitional home complete an application, which is then reviewed at our staff meetings. We review institutional records, classes completed and level of commitment to staying sober and out of prison—all factors in our decision. We also interview the applicant in person or over the telephone. When a decision is made, the applicant will receive a letter either accepting them into the program or denying them. When we don't accept someone, we generally look for an alternative placement.

When our new residents are released, they come directly to the AIM House or to pre-planned community housing after visiting the parole office. We meet in person or speak by telephone with the women daily in the beginning to establish short term goals and to address immediate needs. These can include contacting family, obtaining essential documents (SS cards, Birth Certificates, State ID/DL), establishing a bank account, opening an email account, creating a resume, applying online for jobs, and applying for food stamps. We also provide them with a monthly bus pass and provide them with clothing and interview outfits. Short term goals include obtaining a job within the first month, enrolling in GED or Post-secondary education, budgeting and work readiness, address medical and dental needs, as well as addressing any outstanding warrants resulting from old traffic tickets. If the client has a history of addictions, they are required to attend AA/NA meetings twice weekly.

After they are employed, we work on long term goals with the women; including repairing credit, saving money for a car and permanent housing, finding employment that pays a living wage, enrolling in training programs or continuing education, enrolling in insurance through the government marketplace, and finding a spiritual home if desired. Residents of the house go out for monthly activities together—which can be as simple as a picnic in the park. We also require house meetings to work out any issues between the residents.

Residents must abide by a curfew, sign in and out of the building, complete chores around the house, and submit to random drug screens. If a resident tests positive for drugs, they are given the opportunity to go into treatment. If they refuse, we ask them to leave the program.

Residents pay a small weekly fee that slowly increases. For the first month, they pay \$55 per week, the second month it is increased to \$80 per week, and the third month it increases to \$105 per week for the remainder of their stay. Unlike most other group homes, we do not require a registration fee.

Residents can remain in the program for up to a year, at which time we help them find housing and furniture. We continue to help them after they leave for as long as they need it. Our community clients also receive help for as long as they need it.

We are asking for an increase in funding to help us fund a part-time House Manager and case manager to help the women during off hours. This person would meet with residents and community clients when they return from work to help them with any issues, conduct house meetings, give rides to or from work, and help address any other issues that may arise. The person we would like to hire is a former resident who has been

out of prison for three years, has been promoted at her job, remained sober, and has purchased a car. Our Reentry Coordinator would work closely with the House Manager to address needs as they arise.

How will you evaluate the success of this project or program? Or how have you evaluated the success of this project or program in the past? \*

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We will evaluate the program in the following ways:

- Demographics
- Number of women who have obtained and maintained employment.
- Type of employment
- Number of women who have maintained sobriety.
- Number of women placed in permanent housing.
- Number of women enrolled in Post-secondary education or GED classes.
- Number of women who have not recidivated.

In the past we have successfully aided 20 plus women who lived at our transitional home. We would like to evaluate success by assisting at least 10 women at our transitional home and 30 women in the community and 20 children.

This project or program will impact Montgomery in the following areas (check all that apply) \*

- Distressed and abused women and children
- Education of women and life skills development
- Emergency housing for women and children
- Assist elderly persons, particularly women, in meeting their basic needs
- Other: Women recently released from prison

How does this project or program funding request fit into your organization's mission and, more specifically, the mission of your project or program? \*

Our mission: "To provide services to Alabama's incarcerated women, with emphasis on enhancing personal growth and strengthening bonds between inmate mothers and their children"

Women leaving prison face many unique barriers. These barriers can range from lack of access to health care, transportation, childcare, to lack of social and emotional support. Leaving prison can cause havoc to a person's self-esteem, confidence, support, and independence due to the stigma and the many opportunities not open to them. With a less than perfect background, finding employment or obtaining identification can be a tremendous task. Poverty wears many faces-- lack of income, inability to obtain necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and acceptable levels of healthcare and education. Our goal is to help them access basic services so that those women and children who need support can become self-sufficient. Providing assistance to women as they transition to the community promotes personal growth.

How does this project or program funding request fit into the mission of the Working Woman's Home Association? (stated at top of form) \*

The WWHA mission of promoting education and life skills fits in with our Work Readiness programs, and with our encouragement and help applying for Pell grants for continuing education in nontraditional careers for our clients—from getting certified as a Fork Lift Driver to obtaining a commercial truck driving license—or just returning to college. Many of the women have had training in trade school while incarcerated but have not been able to take the Board exams until they are released. We help with this by paying for the fee, finding tutors to get them up to speed, and finding the dates and locations of exams. Any resident who does not have a GED is enrolled in a GED program.

We also provide housing for women, which could be considered "emergency housing" since women leaving prison often have no other place to go. We provide structured living and support that a homeless shelter cannot provide.

Will this project or program initiate a new service in Montgomery? \*

Yes

No

If not, explain the features of this project or program that distinguish it from other organizations in Montgomery that provide the same or similar services. Identify those organizations in Montgomery providing the same or similar services.

Unlike other organizations, AIM has a long-standing relationship with Alabama Department of Corrections and direct access to women who are in the process of being released. Prior to release we assist with reentry plans, placing our clients at an advantage upon their release. Reentry plans consist of detailed information specific to each person's reentry needs—including mental health, medical and dental needs, child care options, and housing among many other things. Our population has different barriers and issues to resolve as compared to other populations. For example, many of our women have outstanding warrants stemming from old traffic tickets that can prevent them from being able to obtain their driver's licenses. Other women find that they cannot return to their previous profession due to their felony and must get new training or return to school. These women often need support to handle the many issues that can feel overwhelming and can contribute to their failure in the community.

How many people will be served by this project or program funding request? \*

60

Will a grant from the Working Woman's Home Association enable your organization to receive matching funds? \*

Yes

No

Is there another resource that can assume financial responsibility for this project or program upon completion of the commitment of the Working Woman's Home Association? \*

Yes

No

List other organizations or grants from which you have requested funding for this project or program and the status of such requests. \*

River Region United Way: pending

St. John's Episcopal, Montgomery: approved

ARESET (grant from AL Dept. of Human Resources): approved

In addition to submitting this project or program funding request, the documents below are required for this application to be accepted as complete. Please email current documentation in PDF format to: [secretary@wwhassn.org](mailto:secretary@wwhassn.org). (You may check the box below when the item has been emailed.)

- Detailed proposed budget for this project or program request
- Proposed budget for your organization for the current year
- Copy of Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Balance Sheet for the current and most recent fiscal year completed for your organization
- Copy of your most recent audit. If an audit is not available, please include a copy of your most recent 990 form
- List of Officers and Directors
- Copy of your IRS Letter of Determination of 501(c)(3) status

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